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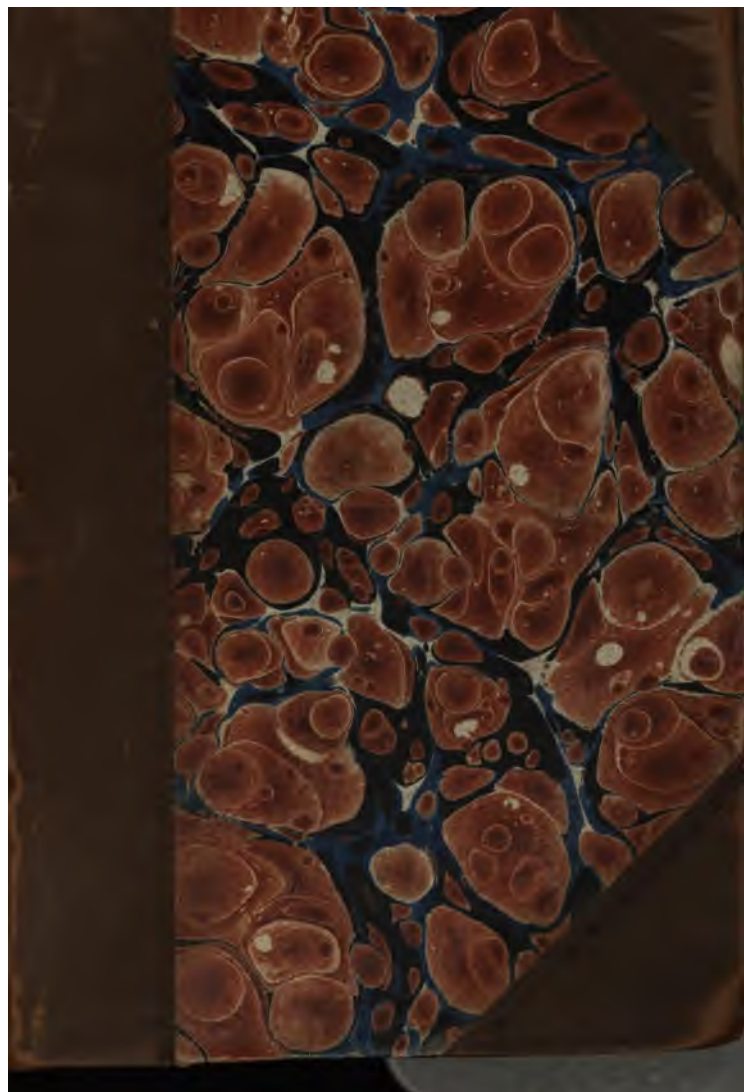
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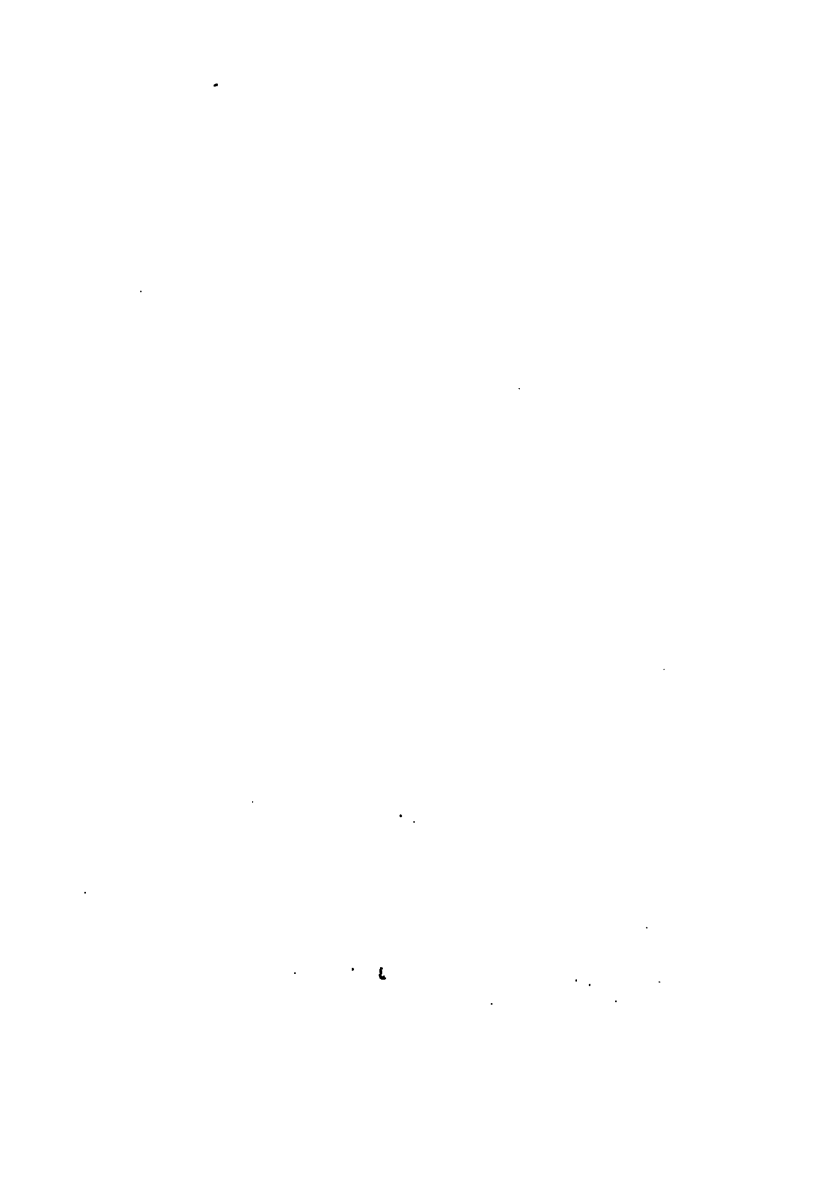




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**HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP;**  
**OR,**  
**THE LITURGY EXPANDED;**  
**IN**  
**A SERIES OF PRAYERS**  
**FOR FAMILY USE:**  
**WITH PRIVATE FORMS.**

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**LONDON:**  
**T. CADELL, STRAND;**  
**AND J. G. AND F. RIVINGTON,**  
**ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, AND WATERLOO PLACE.**

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**1834.**

**113 .**

**TO THE  
CONGREGATION OF ST. MARY'S,  
PLAISTOW, ESSEX ;**

**THIS SELECTION OF PRAYERS,**

**DRAWN UP FOR THEIR USE,**

**IS DEDICATED,**

**BY THEIR AFFECTIONATE FRIEND AND CURATE,**

**E. FEILDE.**

**Plaistow, 1st June, 1834.**

## PREFACE.

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FAMILY WORSHIP comes recommended to us by many advantages:—

It brings religion home, and causes it to mingle in the every-day concerns of life.

It secures the performance of prayer (which is not only a revealed, but a natural, duty) to each individual of the household. It is for want of fixed, established regulations upon the subject, and from the time and place being left to people's choice, that prayer is frequently omitted altogether.

Family Worship is of great importance in establishing order and regularity in a household; (tending among its minor advantages) to the observance of seasonable hours, which an age of luxury is apt to confound.

It tends to impress religion on the minds of the young.

It procures and deepens resignation to those dispensations of Providence, which come to us through the medium of family ties:—and a grateful heart will rejoice in rendering it as a tribute due to Him, who has made us capable of receiving de-



light, through the instrumentality of domestic intercourse.\*

Being desirous of furnishing my congregation with an appropriate course of devotional forms to be used at home, I thought that the exhortation to the practice of Family Worship would be the better welcomed, if a series were drawn up expressly for them. But, to compose prayers entirely new, if I possess the time, I doubt whether I have the ability. To convey correct and just sentiments in calm, and yet pointed, language, to catch

\* These high and important purposes, however, cannot be claimed as the consequences of Family Worship exclusively. If each household went up to the House of God every morning and evening, (an object doubtless contemplated by the framers of our Liturgy,) many of the above advantages might be reaped from the practice; and the day may not be very distant, when an hour, or half that period, rescued from sleep, will be employed by every parishioner in repairing to the church at an appointed moment, to receive that impression upon his spirits, which may solemnize his feelings for the day; and when at the close of each day's toil, he may delight to seek the same retreat. One method of recommending this practice, will be found in diffusing among the people a clearer insight into the beauties and inward sense of our Liturgy. A full understanding of its several parts might leave little to regret in the omission of a Sermon, which is now, with many, the more attractive portion of the Service. Days thus begun and thus ended, might flow on more profitably than the present; the world in which we move would partake more of God's appointed order; the heavy and exciting thoughts engendered by political turmoil might be shaken off; men would go forth better prepared to meet the duties of their several callings; arguments for the due observance of the Sabbath would be less necessary, (for we should be *prepared* for keeping it holy); while many a stronghold of vicious excess, the frequenting of which impoverishes the purse and ruins the health and morals of the peasant and artisan, would fall to decay. But *the road to this custom* requires to be cleared.

the spirit of our Liturgy without employing its precise terms, is a task of which they only know the difficulty who have attempted it. To construct prayers out of the mere words of Scripture, is like building an ordinary edifice out of the materials of a palace;—they may possess solidity and richness, but suitableness is wanting:—it is the ponderous sword of Saul in the hand of the youthful David. The language of our Liturgy is Scriptural, but it is not Scripture: it is the language of Scripture passed through the alembic of a sound mind endued with faith, hope, and love. Each prayer is of a piece; not made up of disjointed extracts from the Bible. Every portion of Holy Writ has its peculiar meaning, and that meaning is best seen, and perhaps only truly seen, in the context. Scripture is the Wisdom of God, but it is *knowledge* only to man; until, by meditation and devout aspirations, and, over all, the presiding Spirit of God, it becomes wisdom to *him*; and when the mind and the heart are full, out of their abundance the tongue will speak in its own way, and after the manner of men: and thus spake the framers of our Liturgy.

To “an old disciple,” prayers drawn up in the express words of the Common Prayer Book might be enough: upon the mind of such, in the course of some *years* of Sabbaths, single sentences from time to time have been impressed, until at last the whole is adequately conceived of: to those of less *experience* and few opportunities, and who, from severe-

ral causes, are in some danger of gliding over what they know by heart, the present series may form a useful manual, in enabling them (if the expression may be allowed) to *enjoy* the Liturgy both at home and at church.

In accomplishing this object, Dean Comber's "Companion to the Temple" has been extensively used in drawing up the Weekly Prayers. But although that author has been taken as a guide, much found in his work has been altered, and very much omitted, and many turns and significations have been given to sentences which are not to be found in his or any other work; and the same remark is applicable to the prayers which have been drawn from other sources. We may keep a guide in view, without having him constantly at our side.

The Weekly Morning and Evening portions, are divided severally into a Confession, Petition, and Thanksgiving: they might have been easily blended into one unbroken form, but, (as South observes,) "By the use of many short prayers, more frequent mention is made of the name and some great attribute of God, [at the beginning,] as the encouraging ground of our praying to Him; and of the merit and mediation of Christ, [at the close,] as the only thing which can promise success in what we pray for."

To the Sunday Prayers, our Liturgy has not furnished much. It was thought advisable, at this

particular juncture, to glance (so far as the subject would admit of such allusion) at some of the reasons for the observance of that day. Many passages in the Sunday Evening Devotions which precede the petition "O Almighty and most Bountiful God," (which is an expanded form of one of the prayers for Ember weeks), are taken (with alterations) from Wasse's Reformed Devotions (1709). From the same work are taken the Private Morning and Evening Prayers, as well as those from page 78 to 86, but with numerous omissions and variations. The meditations at pp. 97 and 99, are extracted (with alterations) from Wasse's Book. The last three prayers are taken (subjected to omissions and changes) from Bp. Jeremy Taylor. The Morning Prayer at page 51, and the Evening Prayer which follows it, are well known. The Prayers for the Sick, are chiefly from Comber's Paraphrase. Many of the ideas in the Prayer for Godfathers, were suggested in reading a passage from Hunter's Sacred Biography; neither is the Prayer relative to the Sacrament an original one.

Persons accustomed to converse with cottagers know, that to recite "The Belief" is one of their evening forms of devotion. That it may be used more for the purposes of edification, than (there is some reason for supposing) it is often employed, a devotional character has been given to it, (chiefly from Dr. Comber). Where the knowledge is small (*if the intention be upright,*) it is better to improve



upon a practice already followed, than to propose an entire change: and, in general, we act more *safely* by widening the channel, in which habitual thoughts of a devotional nature may enlarge themselves, than by introducing subjects altogether new. Besides, with all, portioned or unportioned, learned or unlearned, who are in any kind of affliction, (and who is exempt?) a clear declaration of Faith is to the soul, what an anchor is to a ship in distress.

It may be thought by some, that many expressions in our Common Prayer, thus spread out, have been weakened by the operation. There may be occasional foundation for this opinion; but as no attempt is made by the publication of this work, to put any out of conceit with the language of the Prayer Book, (the object being rather to *put honour* on the Liturgy,) a rigid comparison cannot, in fairness, be instituted between them. It is, however, not to be lost sight of, that a certain degree of fulness and expansion in prayer seems inseparable, from the notion, as well as from the term, of *spreading* our wants before God.

May the will which prompted the design of this work, excuse the errors in the performance; and may the Prevailing Name in which the prayers are offered, recommend them to acceptance!

E. F.

# HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP.

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## PRAYER FOR SUNDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY GOD ! who in the days of man's innocence didst establish an everlasting appointment of the Sabbath, and didst enjoin the observance of it upon our first parents, even when they knew no interruption to their happiness ; we, who are not merely *finite* but *sinful* creatures also, and immersed in worldly cares, cheerfully acknowledge the benefit of a day set apart for Thy worship, in which we may be more intent upon the duties of Thy immediate service.

Worthy art Thou, O Lord ! of *all* our time—worthy of the highest praise of all Thy creatures. Every moment of life proceeds from Thy goodness ; but if Thou hadst left us to ourselves in this matter, in vain should we have agreed *when* to render Thee our united homage. Endless would have been the differences of opinion, had it been left to our own fancies and our own views of convenience to fix a period for public worship.

Of a truth, Lord, Thou hast commanded us to

pray to Thee in secret, yet must we not forsake the assembling of ourselves together: a day devoted to Thy public worship, not only raises our affections to things above, but makes us instrumental in promoting our brother's welfare. We rejoice with them that rejoice, and we join in penitential sorrow; and the assembled multitude being of one heart and one soul mutually establish and edify one another.

O Thou! who didst put honour on Thy commandment by engraving it with the weighty matters of the law on tables of stone, write it in our hearts, we beseech Thee, and grant that we may never think lightly of the duty, but may regard it as a high privilege, and of universal obligation; a seasonable relaxation to the wearied body, a blessed opportunity to the immortal soul.

As in the days of old, Thou didst inspire Thy holy Prophet\* (when referring to the times of the Gospel) to set forth the duties of this day;—endue us, we pray Thee, with that mind which will connect the observance of it with the hopes and privileges of Thy Gospel, “esteeming it a delight, the holy of the Lord, and honourable; and

\* Isaiah, lviii. 13.

honouring Thee, not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words." Such is the weakness of our mortal nature, that we seldom do that well which we pretend to do always; we therefore gratefully acknowledge Thy wisdom and Fatherly goodness in appointing one day to withdraw our hearts from the world, and to fix them upon Thee and upon heavenly objects : help us to collect the scattered energies of our souls, and to pursue in earnest the one thing needful !

May all, from the least to the greatest, habitually and consistently improve this day, the observance of which preserves religion among us, that so Thy blessing may rest upon our land—that it may be\* “a land which the Lord our God careth for; that the eyes of the Lord our God may be always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year !”

May we concur, as far as in us lies, with the mercy of this institution, and be a hindrance to none in partaking the benefit of Thy dispensation ! May our thanksgivings be the inward sense, and our prayers the earnest desire, of our souls !

\* Deut. xi. 12.



Help us so to order our engagements that we may be under no temptation to misemploy this day! Thou Lord of the Sabbath, who didst intimate that Thy disciples were under an obligation to observe this day, and that it would be a heavy addition to their affliction to take their flight on the Sabbath,\* make us, when not engaged in the services of Thy House, to be contented with our own dwelling-place; and to find our enjoyment, as well as our advantage, in meditating and in talking upon the things which we have there heard.

After the example of Thine ancient people, we appropriate the seventh of our time to Thee; but we will not do it in a servile spirit, but as those who love Thee, and who desire to please Thee. Our regard to this duty shall be an act of willing obedience to Thy authority, an expression of unfeigned zeal for Thy glory! The spirit of Thy law shall be maintained as it becomes those among whom the true light now shineth, and who understand the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. On this day was our redemption completed by the

\* Matt. xxiv. 20.

rising of Jesus Christ from the dead, and on this day did he send down his Holy Spirit upon his Apostles. May it be a sign\* and a pledge to us, as it was to Thy people Israel, of that better rest hereafter which remaineth for the people of God, when they shall have finished the work which Thou hast given them to do !

O Lord ! who, by choosing this day for so many important and beneficial events, didst direct Thine Apostle, full of the Holy Ghost, to call it Thy† day ; grant that all its useful ends may be answered upon us, that we fail not of a part in Thy everlasting Sabbath, through Jesus Christ our Lord ! *Amen.*      Our Father, &c.

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## SUNDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY GOD ! who didst make all things for Thyself, we thank Thee that thou wert pleased to appoint one day in seven, that Thy creatures might have a stated opportunity of paying Thee the tribute of prayer and praise, and of keeping Thy creating and redeeming goodness in everlasting remembrance. We will be glad and rejoice in the appointment of this day.

\* *Exod. xxxi. 17.*† *Rev. i. 10.*

as displaying Thy sovereignty : hereby Thy dominion is acknowledged, even in a commandment which binds the world, one day from week to week, to lay aside their own affairs and attend to Thy worship. The variety, the order, the steadfastness of all Thy works in this great world, abundantly utter Thy adorable perfections : but by Thy goodness in giving Thy Son for us — in raising him from the dead — in setting him at Thine own right hand, Thou hast given us new matter of wonder and of praise, and consecrated a better rest and day of rejoicing, wherein we may behold the glories of another world.

Thy goodness vouchsafes to bear the *name*, but intends for us the *profit* of the Sabbath, that the wearied hands may rest from their labour and be lifted up to Thee ; that the ignorant may receive instruction, and the way of life be made manifest unto men ; that the faithful soul may approach Thy table and repair its spiritual strength by a holy banquet ; that we may speak to Thee in prayer, and hear Thy voice by Thy pastors.

O Lord, with what a natural conduct does Thy *Providence* govern the children of men, and lead

them from one degree of knowledge to another ! In the first ages, Thou gavest for a guide unwritten tradition, but a written law to Thy people Israel. Israel had increasing notices of Thy will, but they wanted clear instruction to know the *end* of their rites and observances, and *constraining* motives to love their God. Of old Thou didst lay the foundation for these times of grace, in which Thou puttest Thy laws into our minds, and writest them upon the tablets of our hearts.

O blessed Lord, what excellent methods hath Thy wisdom designed to bring us to Thyself ! Thou takest our eyes by the beauty of Thy House, and the decency of Thy solemn offices !

If in our Church be any wisdom or knowledge ; if any real sanctity or decent order ; if any love of God as our sovereign bliss ; if any mutual charity : all this worketh one and the self-same Spirit. May every call of His this day be complied with, and every talent He bestows be diligently improved. Thou art the sacred pledge of our free adoption, the ensuring seal of our salvation !

O Almighty and most bountiful God, the giver of all *good gifts* which the sons of men enjoy ;



who, among other acts of grace towards us, out of Thy divine care and providence hast, for the prevention of confusion, appointed various orders and degrees, some higher and some lower, in Thy church, for the government and edification thereof: we trust that Thou wilt bless that which is of Thine own appointing: give Thy grace therefore at this time, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, and communicate Thy Spirit to those who are over us in the Lord, whether bishops, priests, or deacons; and let this grace of Thine bestowed upon them, enlighten their minds, and so replenish them with a right judgment and complete understanding, that they may teach and defend the truth of Thy doctrine. Let it also sanctify their conversation, and endue them with holiness and innocency of life. We pray that they may be wise and pious, as good stewards faithfully serving Thee in Thy house, where they appear more immediately before Thee, and that their sacred ministrations may tend, to set forth the glory of Thy great Name, and to the edification of all who belong to Thy holy church. Grant this mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we ask it, and by *whose mediation* we hope to obtain it. *Amen.*

This day we have been taught, exhorted, and encouraged out of Thy Holy Word : we have this day made profession of our love, and gratitude, and dutifulness to Thy divine Majesty : help us during the week, on which we this day have entered, to testify the truth of our hearts by a blameless conversation ; in humility, meekness, temperance, righteousness, charity, and peace with all them that call upon the Lord out of a pure heart. When our senses shall be bound in sleep this night, be Thou, O Lord, our keeper ; and after the refreshment of that repose and this holy rest from labour, may we rise to serve Thee cheerfully in body and soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

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## MONDAY MORNING.

O God, whose dominion is over all the world, and whose power is infinite to perform all the purposes of Thy will, we confess that we have erred and strayed from Thy ways ; that in sudden and unobserved sins we frequently transgress ; that in vain thoughts, and rash and idle words, we depart

from that straight and even rule which Thou hast appointed to us. Many are the failings of which our own consciences accuse us ; and how many more may be known unto Thee, O Thou Searcher of hearts ! And we also confess unto Thee that we have strayed farther, and fallen into greater transgressions, and that evil habits have grown upon us ; that we have openly forsaken Thy ways, and passed the bounds which in Thy great mercy Thou hast set unto us. Although we cannot hurt Thee by our sins, yet may we greatly hurt ourselves thereby, by staying the hand which feeds and refreshes us, and by provoking Thee to let loose Thine anger to destroy us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Our misery pleads for mercy ; our free confession cries for a removal of the punishment ; not from any desert in us, but from the mere compassion of our distress, have mercy upon us, for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, able to help us, and the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever ; who hast refreshed *our weariness* and renewed our strength during the

past night, and hast brought us safely to the morning light : we acknowledge that the dominion of the night belongs to Thee ; through Thee we have been protected, though insensible of danger, and incapable of resistance. But our necessities end not with the night : we need Thy mighty power to keep us during the day also. Many are the temptations, various are the accidents and the evils to which we are exposed, and we confess that we are but slenderly provided against them. Let Thy presence, therefore, go along with us this day in private and in company, in business and in recreation. Grant that we fall into no sin by compliance, nor run into the midst of dangerous temptations : and if, by avoiding iniquity, we are forced to suffer any hardship, or lose any present advantage, may we account such privation our riches, and such loss our truest gain. May Thy grace direct our hearts, and Thy good providence order our lives, that we may experience Thy blessing this day in our going out and coming in, that in all our actions we may design Thy glory and forward our own salvation ! Let us not follow a multitude to do evil, but ever study to do what is *righteous in Thy sight* ; through the merits and



intercession of Jesus Christ, our Lord and only Saviour. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the Author of all our comforts, and the Father of all the mercies which Thy creatures can enjoy, we, Thy servants, who cannot deserve or requite the least of Thy favours, present unto Thee our most humble and hearty thanks, which Thou hast so justly deserved, for all the acts of mercy, which have flowed purely from Thy goodness and loving-kindness, to us and to all men: but above all, we bless Thee for spiritual blessings, for redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ, for the good word of Thy grace, and for the glorious prospect of everlasting joy: and grant that we may ever retain such a sense of Thy favours as may cause us to love and serve Thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

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MONDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, we come before Thee with a humble sense of our own unworthiness, *acknowledging* the manifold sins which we from

time to time have committed against Thee, in thought, word, and deed. We find, to our sorrow, that we have followed too much and too long the devices and desires of our own hearts, and forsaking thy guidance have eagerly pursued what our own mistaken judgments could devise, or our evil inclinations wish for: although not ignorant of Thy holy laws, but fully instructed in our duty, we have offended against them. But knowing that we have deserved Thy wrath, and in fear of its arrival, we pray Thee to spare us upon the confession of our faults, and to deliver us, if not from temporal, at least from eternal judgments, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
*Amen.*

O God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, by whose grace all holy desires spring up in our hearts, and all good resolutions grow, till they bring forth the fruits of righteous actions; give unto us, who acknowledge ourselves Thy servants, such persuasions of our reconciliations with Thee, and such testimonies of our obedience to Thy will, that we may enjoy that peace, which neither the friendship nor the plenty of the world can give, *nor possesses anything worthy to be compared*

with. May we so experience this fruit of a holy life, that our wavering and inconstant hearts may be set firmly and resolved stedfastly to keep thy commandments. May Thy gracious providence defend us this night from all which may hurt, or terrify, or disturb : and may we pass the time which Thou shalt afford us upon earth in rest from our foes, and in quietness of mind ; through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

FINALLY, let us praise God for all His temporal mercies to us ; for the creation of our bodies and souls ; for preservation from the evils which hang over us, and for the blessings of food and raiment, of health and habitations, and all the necessary supports of this present life. But above all other mercies, we would highly bless Thee, O God, for those which are spiritual and eternal, even for the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ ; for Thy holy word, and for the sacraments which Thou hast appointed to be the means of conveying Thy grace to us here ; and for the hope that, after the troubles and dangers of this life, we may arrive at the enjoyment of glory hereafter ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c.*

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O God, who art our merciful Father, who understandest and despisest not the sighing of the contrite, nor deniest the desires and requests of those who feel a real sorrow for their sins ; mercifully assist us this morning in presenting our supplications before Thee, and grant that those evils which the craft and subtlety of the devil contrive, or which the malice of wicked men worketh against us, may never prevail to hurt us : that we may live undisturbed in Thy service, and in the quiet enjoyment of Thy true religion. But if Thou correct us, O Lord, correct us in mercy : deal not with us in this world as our sins have deserved, neither visit us in the world to come according to the measure of our iniquities. Arise, O Lord, to take our part ; help us against our spiritual foes at present, and deliver us from them all at the last ; though not for our merit, yet for Thy name's sake ; for we are Thy people, and O be Thou our God ; for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

O God, who by Thy constant power and good providence art the Author of our safety by night *and by day*, the cause of all our peace from with-

out, and the lover of concord within Thy church and among Thy people; we rejoice in the discoveries which Thou hast made to us, in this imperfect state, of Thy power and providence, of Thy care and love, the\* perfect knowledge of which is to form the happiness of Thy saints in Heaven. We acknowledge that we neither are, nor desire to be, masters of ourselves, but the servants of Thee, an Almighty King, who canst preserve us a thousand times more safely than if left to ourselves. As Thou hast protected us during the night past, so defend Thy humble servants this day in our going out and coming in, that no calamity or evil accident may come nigh to hurt us: but that, surely trusting in Thy defence, we may be delivered from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through the might of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ACCEPT our thanks, most merciful Father, for all Thy blessings to us in providence and in grace; for preserving us during the past night, and for giving us a fresh opportunity of calling on Thy

\* *'In knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life.'*—Liturgy.

name. And we beseech Thee to give us, together with these blessings, that due sense of the infinite number and excellent nature of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful for them, and that we may glorify Thee not with our lips only, but in our lives and conversations also, by giving up ourselves in soul and body to Thy service, and behaving ourselves as ever in Thy sight, in holiness towards Thee and in righteousness towards our neighbours now and all the days of our life: through the intercession of Jesus Christ, who hath obtained all good things for us; to whom with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honour and glory now in this world, and for ever in that world which is without end. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

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## TUESDAY EVENING.

O God, whose very nature and inseparable property it always was and ever is, to have mercy upon the miserable and to forgive all those who lament and forsake their sins, we humbly acknowledge the manifold sins which we from time to time have grievously committed against Thee in



thought, word, and deed ; and we pray Thee to receive the humble petitions which we now offer to Thee for pardon of the same ; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of Thy nature and the greatness of Thy mercy, which has delivered many others, loose us also, and set us free from the bondage of corruption and all the vengeance due unto it ; and though there is nothing in us to deserve this favour, yet we pray Thee to grant it for the honour of our Mediator, who intercedes for us, even our Advocate who pleads our cause, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, let the assurance of Thy providence, and the comfort of Thy grace, and the beams of Thy favour, lighten our darkness, and remove all discomfort during the approaching night. Make it safe to us, Thou Father of Light, and by Thy great mercy behold and pity the various miseries and mischiefs to which Thy helpless creatures are exposed. And if the mind be in fear or sadness, let the comforts of Thy good Spirit, and a sense of Thy care and favour, cheer and enlighten us ; *if our hearts* be clouded with grief, or shadowed

with ignorance, do Thou lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, and turn our sorrows into the joy of the morning. Preserve and defend us in our souls and bodies, together with our friends and relations, from all perils and dangers which might befall us in any part of this night. Grant this for the love which Thou bearest to Thine only Son, and to us, for His sake, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O LORD, our heavenly Father, who art most high in dignity, and mighty in power, the supreme King of Kings, and absolute Lord of Lords, the only Ruler of the hearts, and Examiner of the actions of princes, who from Thy throne in the highest heavens dost behold all the dwellers upon earth, and especially those on whose safety the welfare of the rest depends, in loyal affection to our King, we most humbly beseech Thee to behold, and by Thy good providence to defend, our most gracious Sovereign Lord King William, and so replenish him with holy and virtuous qualities, by filling his breast with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that in his counsels and intentions he may always incline to



that which is agreeable to Thy will, follow the rule of Thy Word, and walk in the way of Thy commandments. Endue him plenteously with the heavenly gifts of wisdom and courage; grant him in health and wealth long to live, and prosperously to reign over us. Strengthen him, that he may vanquish and overcome all his and our enemies, and finally after this life, finished in virtue and honour, he may attain a crown of glory in the kingdom of everlasting joy and felicity, that was purchased by the merits, and must be obtained through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who art a greater security to all that trust in Thee than the strongest tower or fortress of defence, from the fury and force of enemies, be they ever so many or so mighty, we Thy servants yield to Thee the tribute of our hearty praise and thanksgivings for all the mighty deliverances which Thou hast wrought for this church and nation; and we here acknowledge that it was not our own policy or power, our innocence or merits, but Thy goodness which has *preserved us* from our enemies. We beseech

PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING. 21

Thee, who hast hitherto helped us, to continue to this nation, which is become enriched by Thy bounty, and great by Thy favour, those mercies which have been so often expressed towards us, that all the world may know that Thou wilt ever take our part; that Thou art our Saviour and mighty Deliverer. So shall Thy name be glorified by us, and by the generations to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O God, the Father, the Maker and Governor of heaven and earth, pardon us whereinsoever we have offended against Thy laws and providence, and have mercy upon us, miserable sinners !

O God, the Son, the Redeemer of us and of the world, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners ! Pardon us, although we have offended against Thee and Thy holy Gospel !

O God, the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners ! and pardon us, although we have offended against Thy holy motions and directions !

22 PRAYER FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, Three Persons and One God, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners !

Remember not, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our offences with indignation, neither let the offences of our forefathers be required of this generation ; but spare us, good Lord ; spare Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood ! Let Thy sufferings wholly avert, or mercifully abate ours ; and be not angry with us in this world, nor punish us for ever in the world to come ! Spare us, good Lord !

From all evil which may hurt our souls ; from every calamity which may disorder our reason ; from all mischief which may harm our bodies ; from sin, the greatest of evils, and from all which may induce us to commit it, as well from the craft that lures us into it, as the surprises and assaults of the devil ; from Thy wrath, which follows it, and from everlasting damnation, the sad wages of it hereafter, Good Lord, deliver us !

From all secret sins against Thy Majesty :— from blindness, and wilful ignorance, of heart ; from a high conceit of ourselves ; from seeking *inordinate* applause from others ; from hypocrisy,

and all feigned show of piety : from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness towards our neighbour,                      Good Lord, deliver us !

From all notorious offences of our lives and actions :—from fornication, and all hardening and deadly sins ; from all the flattering and disappointing temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil,                      Good Lord, deliver us !

From all the judgements which our sins deserve :—from the fury of the storm above us ; from the sad desolations of the plague, or pestilence around us ; from the extreme misery of famine in our land ; from battle and murder ; and from an untimely, unprepared, and sudden death,

Good Lord, deliver us !

From the judgements which Thou permittest evil men to execute :—from the violence of a giddy multitude, stirred up to sedition ; from the designs of all who would subvert our church and state ; from all false doctrine, unsettling heresy, and petulant schism ; and all needless divisions in the assemblies of Thy saints : and from the spiritual judgement of hardness of heart, which might bring us to an open contempt of Thy word and commandments,                      Good Lord, deliver us !

By the remembrance of all which Thou hast done for our salvation :—by the mystery of Thy holy incarnation, and taking our nature upon Thee ; by the condescension of Thy holy and humble birth ; by the gracious designs of Thy baptism and fasting, and the glorious victory obtained in Thy temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us !

By Thine agony and bloody sweat ; by the pains which Thou didst endure upon the cross ; by the anguish of Thy soul in Thy bitter passion ; by Thy precious death for the sins of the whole world ; by Thy burial and continuance under the power of the grave ; by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension ; and by all the truth and mercy manifested in the coming of the Holy Ghost, to remain with us to the end of the world,

Good Lord, deliver us !

When tribulation afflicts us, that we murmur not, nor despair ; when prosperity and health smile upon us, that we forget not their Author ; in the hour of death, that we fall not from Thee ; and in the day of judgement, that we be not eternally condemned, Good Lord, deliver us !

*Assist us, according to Thy promise, and help*

us mercifully, O Lord, that we may be sincere and devout in these and all our supplications and prayers; and, O Thou that orderest every good man's going, order the conversation, and dispose the way of Thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that among all the changes of this uncertain world, and the chances and accidents of this mortal life, we may never presume nor despair, but may be defended by Thy most gracious and ready help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WITH these our prayers, accept our thanks for all Thy mercies towards us, more especially for Thy protection of us during the past night. Lead us, O Lord, to see Thy hand in all that befalls us; continue to guard and guide us this day, and throughout our whole lives, that hereafter we may be received into Thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

HAVE mercy upon us, O God ; pity and pardon Thy servants, who are unworthy to call upon Thee.

Christ, have mercy upon us, whose only hope is in Thy mediation and redemption.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and assist us in these our supplications.

Our Father, &c.

O Lord, show some token of Thy mercy upon us, to our comfort, and grant us such deliverance from all evil, that we may obtain Thy salvation at the last.

Be pleased, O Thou Preserver of the world, to bless and preserve the King, and mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee for him.

Do Thou endue the hearts and minds of Thy ministers with purity and holiness ; and thereby make Thy chosen people joyful, out of our love to Thee, and spiritual benefit by them.

Be graciously pleased, O Lord, to save Thy *people out of* all their troubles ; and to bless

Thine inheritance, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood !

Give peace to the world and to the church, that we may quietly serve Thee in our time, O Lord, Thou God of Peace ! It is Thou alone who canst save us from war, or preserve us in it. We trust not in any one that fighteth for us, since none can secure us, but only Thou, O Lord of Hosts.

O God, make clean and purify our hearts from sin, that no evil thoughts may remain within us, when we approach Thee ; and take not the aid of Thy Holy Spirit from us.

O God, who art Almighty in power and everlasting in duration, who hast promised to be ever with Thy church, we acknowledge that Thou art the God who alone workest great marvels for the preservation thereof in all ages ; wherefore, we beseech Thee to send down from above gifts and graces upon all estates of men in Thy church, suitable to the present condition of the same ; upon our bishops, to direct them, and upon our ministers and curates, to assist them in the feeding of Thy flock, as well as upon all congrega-



tions, whose souls Thou hast committed to their charge. Give them the healthful and saving Spirit of Thy grace, to fit them for, and to assist them in, all their religious duties; and that all in their several stations may please Thee, do Thou pour upon them the effectual and continual dew of Thy blessing; that the labours of Thy messengers may be successful, and the lives of Thy people fruitful in all good works. Grant this, not only for the benefit of Thy church, but for the honour of our Advocate and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

WE acknowledge Thy goodness, O Almighty God, who, remembering our inability of ourselves to serve Thee, hast given us the efficacious assistance of Thy grace at this time, which has enabled us with one accord to make our common supplications to Thee with new affections: and dost promise, that when the smallest number of the faithful in obedience to Thy command are gathered together to offer their prayers in Thy name, they shall find Thee in the midst of them, and Thou wilt grant their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, as *well the desires* which have proceeded from our

hearts as the petitions uttered by the lips of Thy servants, supplying their wants by night and by day as may be judged by Thy wisdom most expedient for them. But however Thou dealest with us in all other things, do Thou grant us in this world to know Thee here by faith, and to experience the truth of Thy promises : and in the world to come grant us life everlasting. *Amen.*

MAY the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,—to pardon our sins:—and the love of God the Father,—to supply our wants:—and the fellowship and communications of the Holy Ghost—to strengthen our weakness and to perfect our sanctification, be with us and rest upon us all this night and for evermore. *Amen.*

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## THURSDAY MORNING.

WE most humbly beseech Thee, O gracious Father, mercifully to pardon, and with compassion to look upon, the sad varieties of our infirmities, the frailties of our nature, the errors of our conversation, and the miseries of our condition : and

for the glory of Thy name, which is most advanced by acts of mercy, be Thou pleased to turn from us all those temporal, spiritual, and eternal evils which we confess that we have most righteously and justly deserved to suffer from Thy hand: nevertheless, whenever it shall please Thee to chastise us for our good, we beseech Thee to grant that in all our troubles which fall upon us by Thy appointment, we may put our whole trust and confidence in Thy mercy: bearing up under them in the assured hope that Thou wilt help us out of them: and that no affliction may deprive us either of our faith or piety, make us evermore carefully to obey and serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, to Thy honour and glory, and our own comfort and peace, through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY LORD, Eternal and Everlasting God, whose power is infinite and for ever the same: remember the frailty of Thy finite creatures, and vouchsafe to preserve us this day, in all our necessary engagements and connexions with the present world, from being tainted with the spirit and the temper of such as do not fear Thee.

Do Thou by Thy wisdom direct, by Thy grace do Thou sanctify, and by Thy providence do Thou govern both the affections of our hearts from the first approaches of sin, and our bodies from all casualties and evil accidents: teach us temperance in all our enjoyments, and make us ever ready to resign what Thy bounty has bestowed: amidst all temptations, keep us in the right and pleasant ways of Thy laws and in the works of Thy commandments: from Thy sure paths let us not wander this day; that through Thy most mighty protection which is always over those who are exercised in well-doing, we may be preserved in body and soul, through His merits, who is our Lord to govern us and our Saviour to redeem us, even Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, whose sun enlightens us, whose air we breathe, and by whose bread we are sustained, we acknowledge that we have nothing for ourselves (or our children) but what Thou givest: we are the more obliged to Thee for our gifts, because they are so freely bestowed upon us; Thou desirest no requital but only our thankful acknowledgments. Each fruitful season testifies

Thy care over us: if we have plenty, our joy should express itself in Thy praises who art the blessed Author thereof. O teach us the happy art so to use this world as not to abuse it: may we never grow secure by our abundance, but be thankful unto Thee for it, and depend upon Thee still. We heartily pray to Thee for the continuance of Thy love, without which our plenty will never do us good. May our abundance make us more charitable and more thankful, more pious and more obedient, and then wilt Thou, O God, have glory by it, and we shall have comfort from it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

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#### THURSDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for His sake inclined to show us mercy, Thou art the Maker of us and of all things, and hatest nothing that Thou hast made, but hast pity upon all the works of Thy hands, so that we are encouraged to make our supplication to Thee; O thou Judge of all men, we freely acknowledge and we bitterly lament our manifold

sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by word, thought, and deed, against Thy Divine Majesty, turning thereby Thy loving-kindness into displeasure, and provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us to our ruin, if Thy mercy help us not. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them pierces our heart with shame and sorrow, and the burden of them presses down our souls. Yet, since Thou invitest all who are heavy laden, we despair not of Thy pity; but we beseech Thee to have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, though we are unworthy to be called Thy children. For Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and by the merits of His cross and passion, forgive us fully and freely all that is past, from the beginning of our lives to this hour. Grant that we may be so impressed with Thy undeserved favours that we may beware of falling back into the sins of which we have repented; and help us so to serve and please Thee in newness of life, that we may promote the honour and glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



O GOD, the Creator, and by Thy gracious providence the Preserver, of the whole world, and especially of all mankind, who are Thy choicest work and chiefest care, we humbly beseech Thee for all degrees and conditions of men, wheresoever they dwell or whatsoever be their quality and fortune. We pray in behalf of those who know Thee not,—in compassion to their ignorance and delusions, be Thou pleased to make Thy ways and the holy paths of Thy laws known unto them, and to cause the Gospel and all the mysteries of Thy saving health and man's redemption to be published unto all nations, for the conversion of Jews and Turks, infidels and heretics. More especially, as we are Christians, we pray unto Thy Divine Majesty for the welfare and good estate of the universal church of Christ, whereof we are members, that it may be outwardly quiet and successful in the world. And in order to its inward prosperity, we desire that it may be at all times so guided in its principles and governed in its practice by Thy Holy Spirit, that all the members of this holy society who profess Thy true religion and call themselves Christians, and are

accounted so by others, may be led by Thy Divine Spirit into the way of truth, and be preserved from all heresy and error. And the faith which they have embraced grant that they may retain with charity and a good conscience; may they dwell together in unanimity and in righteousness of life. And since, by our frailties and our sins, we are liable to calamities, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted by Thy immediate hand, whatever be their sufferings, in mind, body, or outward estate, especially those with whom we are immediately acquainted: may it please Thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings and a happy deliverance out of all their afflictions. And may we experience Thy tender mercy this night in preserving us from all dangers, and in restoring us to the light of another day, through Jesus Christ our Lord: *Amen.*

FINALLY, we would praise Thee for all the mercies which Thou minglest with the miseries of this life; and chiefly we would praise Thy name

for all those who have no mixture of sin or sorrow in their cup of pure and perfect joy, even for all Thy servants departed out of this life in Thy faith and fear. We rejoice in their happiness, though we need not pray for them; but we beseech Thee for *ourselves*, who are yet upon the waves of this troublesome world, to give us grace so to follow their good examples while we live here, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, to Thy unworthy children, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

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FRIDAY MORNING.

O GOD, although Thou hearest not obstinate sinners while they remain such, yet we beseech Thee to hear us who penitently bewail our offences: may it please Thee, who hast united all Christian people into one body, to rule by Thy authority, and to govern by Thy wisdom, Thy holy universal church, that it may never err from Thy truth, but be kept evermore in the right way;

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord!

More particularly we pray for all estates of men in the church which Thou hast planted in this nation ; and since Thou hast set over us a Prince professing Thy true religion, may it please Thee to secure from error and to strengthen, as well in the true way of worshipping Thee as in righteousness and holiness of life, Thy servant William, our most gracious King and Governor ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee, who hast the hearts of Kings in Thy hand, to rule his heart by the continual guidance of Thy Holy Spirit ; that it may be firm in Thy faith, constant in Thy fear, and fervent in Thy love ; that his hope and affiance may be in Thee and Thy assistance, and that he may ever seek Thy honour and glory ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee, whose providence is the surest guard and strongest defence, to be his defender and keeper night and day, that no secret designs or open violence may prosper against him ;

We beseech thee, &c.

May it please Thee to bless, with all temporal happiness and spiritual grace, our most gracious Queen Adelaide, and all the Royal family : that

there may never be wanting defenders of the true faith, from generation to generation ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

And that Thy church may be spiritually edified as well as temporally defended, we pray Thee for all those to whom Thou hast committed the administration of holy things—that Thou wouldest illuminate the minds of all bishops who are to rule Thy flock, and of all priests and deacons who are to feed them, with true knowledge of all things necessary to their offices, especially with the knowledge and understanding of Thy word, which is the fountain of all truth and piety, that both by their preaching practically and plainly, and by their living holily and righteously, they may set forth Thy word for Thy people's direction, and shew it to them in all its glories, as the duty of their function requires ; We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to endue the Lords of the Council, and all the Nobility, with grace, that they may be holy in their lives and loyal in their hearts : and with wisdom and understanding, that they may be patrons and patterns of what is good among their families, tenants and neighbours ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to bless with Thy assistance, and to keep through Thy providence, all our Judges and Magistrates, giving them grace in all causes, without fear or favour, to exercise justice upon offenders, and to maintain truth and innocence, that the guilty triumph not, nor the well-disposed be discouraged ;

We besetech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to bless with peace and prosperity, and to keep from all evil, all Thy people of these realms ; that they may praise Thee for Thy mercy, and flourish under Thy protection ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to give to all nations the happiness of unity among themselves and freedom from civil discord, and the blessing of peace and concord with one another ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee to give us an heart inclined to love Thee for Thy goodness, and to fear Thee for Thy majesty ; and diligently to live after Thy commandments ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee to give to all Thy people increase and proficiency in all kinds of grace by the right use of the means which Thou hast insti-



tuted: cause them to hear meekly the reproofs of Thy word with resolutions to amend, to receive its instructions with pure affections and purposes to obey: and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, even love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, temperance ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred by following their own fancies, or are deceived by the devices of others ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to strengthen such as stand firm in their principles and practice, (for the strongest are weak without a continual supply of strength from Thee) : to comfort and help the weak-hearted and feeble-minded under discouraging doubts and fears : to raise up by a true repentance those that fall into iniquity, and to give us at last a complete victory over sin, temptation, and Satan ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to succour all who are in danger, to help all who are in necessity, and to comfort all who are in tribulation ; that they sink not under the burden of their distress ; and give *us grace, so far as we are able, to assist them ourselves ;*

We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee to preserve from the many dangers to which they are liable, all who travel or sail by land or by water, who are deprived of the benefit of public ordinances ; all women labouring of child, all sick persons and young children, and to shew Thy pity upon all prisoners among ourselves, and captives in other nations ;  
We beseech Thee, &c.

That it may please Thee, who art the Father of the fatherless, and God of the widow, to defend the rights and to provide for the necessities of the fatherless children and widows, and all that are left desolate, or are oppressed by wicked men ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

And since “ Thou wouldest have all men to be saved,” and there is no man in the world who needs not Thy mercy ; may it please Thee to extend it to all, whatever their condition, that their outward wants may be relieved here, and their souls eternally saved hereafter ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, to turn their hearts and to bring them to a better mind ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

And now, in our own behalf, we request of Thee, who causest food to grow out of the earth, to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits which Thou hast ordained for our nourishment, so that in due time we may enjoy them soberly and thankfully ; We beseech Thee, &c.

May it please Thee to look upon our spiritual necessities also, and to give us true repentance for all our former sins against Thee ; to forgive us all commissions of evil ; and all omissions of good, and ignorance of our duty ; and that we turn not back from following Thee, give us the grace of Thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives and actions according to Thy Holy Word ;

We beseech Thee, &c.

O Son of God, we beseech Thee to hear us :

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, remove our sins that they may not hinder our prayers :

Grant us the benefit of Thy peace within,  
though we have tribulation without : And a share  
in that Mercy which Thy blood hath purchased :

O Christ hear us :

Lord, have mercy upon us :

Christ, have mercy upon us: Lord, have  
mercy upon us: Our Father, &c.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD GOD, who hearest prayer and alone hast power finally to forgive sin, we beseech Thee mercifully to hear and graciously to answer the prayers which we make for the pardon of our transgressions. We are indeed sinful and deserve punishment; but, O Lord, remove our guilt and spare all those who with shame and sorrow confess their sins unto Thee: that we, whose consciences by sin are accused, by Thy merciful pardon may be absolved; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

MOST merciful Lord God, who hast owned us for Thy children by creating us, preserving us, and providing for us; and, after our manifold acts of disobedience, hast by Thy gracious promise of pardon encouraged us to call Thee *Our Father*: Thy mercy in receiving us exceeds the compassion of earthly parents; — we lift up our hands to Thee *which art in heaven*, and yet humblest Thyself to behold the things which are done upon earth — we desire Thy glory in the first place: — by us and by all men may *Thy name be ever*

*hallowed* and sanctified, revered and feared : to Thee and all that belongeth unto Thee may we ever express a fervent love and a dutiful regard. Lord, may *Thy kingdom come* into all our hearts, to rule us by Thy grace, and to fit us against that time when Thou shalt come in glory to crown Thy servants and to condemn their enemies. May *Thy will be done* both by our obedience to Thy word, and by our submission to Thy providence, for then only shall we be truly happy, when the good pleasure of Thy will is done *on earth* as readily and fully, as cheerfully and constantly *as it is in heaven*. But, Lord, Thou knowest the frailty of our nature, and the misery of our condition, which needs continual support and supplies, and which constrains us to beseech Thee, who hast all blessings at Thy disposal, to *give us this day* which may be our last, and beyond which we will not anxiously seek, nor ask more than *our daily bread*, even that food and raiment, that health and wealth, that prosperity and success which Thou seest necessary and convenient for us in that state of life, in which Thou hast placed us : grant us so much as may enable us to serve Thee, and not encourage us to forget Thee, or increase the number of our sins against

Thee. These we will daily acknowledge and heartily bewail, and remembering the punishment due unto us for them, we beseech Thee to *forgive us our trespasses* against Thy righteous laws and just authority, for Christ's sake, who has made satisfaction for them. Gracious Lord, by His merits forgive us, *as we*, by the help of Thy grace, and the injunctions of Thy gospel and the example of Thy mercy, *forgive them that trespass against us*. And O lead us not into any dangerous occasions or opportunities of sin, but though many snares be laid for us, do Thou guide us by Thy providence, that we may seldom fall into *temptation* and never fall by it. Leave us not to our own folly, *but deliver us from doing evil* here, that we may not suffer for it hereafter. These mercies we need, and though we be unworthy, yet we petition Thee for them. *For Thine is the kingdom* over all, especially over those who have been baptized into the faith of Thy holy name; Thou alone hast *the power* to secure us; and to Thee, therefore, shall all the praise *and glory* be given by men and angels *for ever and ever*. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.



## SATURDAY MORNING.

O MOST MIGHTY GOD, who art to obstinate sinners a terrible Judge, but to true penitents a gracious and merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and hatest nothing that Thou hast made; Thy mercy is over all Thy works, and therefore over us also, who by our sins have defaced Thy workmanship: but Thou canst restore as well as create, and Thy mercy is equal to Thy might: Thou wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should return in time from his evil ways, and be saved from eternal ruin. Mercifully forgive us all our trespasses; receive us upon our return to Thee; comfort those who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins; for such Thou callest, and to such Thou dost promise rest. Thy property and peculiar glory it is, to have mercy on the miserable, to Thee only it appertaineth to forgive sin, and to take away the curse which is due unto us for it. Spare us, therefore, good Lord, spare Thy people whom Thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with Thy servants who are vile earth and miserable sinners. *Deal not strictly with us, but so turn away Thine*

anger from us, who meekly acknowledge our vileness, and truly repent us of our faults, and so make haste to help us to Thy pardon and Thy grace, while we live in this world the only place of our repentance, that we may not die in our sins but go from hence in peace, and ever live with Thee in the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, the Original of all power, and the Fountain of all wisdom, we make not our prayers to inform Thee, who knowest our necessities before we ask Thee to supply them, and who discernest our ignorance and folly in asking hurtful things; we beseech Thee to have compassion upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not pray for, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give unto us of Thy great bounty; withhold not any good thing because we are unworthy, but give us all that we need for the worthiness and for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WE praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. To Thee we owe all duty

and obedience: we esteem it our happiness and honour to be accounted Thy servants who art Lord of the whole world. As we daily taste of Thy mercies, so will we daily acknowledge Thee and magnify Thee with thanksgiving. Thou art the ever-flowing spring of consolation; therefore will we praise Thy name, ever world without end. Vouchsafe to keep us this day, O Lord, which we have begun in Thy service, without sin, that our present sacrifice may be accepted, and our hearts fitly disposed against the next opportunity. In Thee, O Lord, alone we trust, because we know Thy grace and bounty; O send us not empty away. Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us:

Our Father, &c.

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#### SATURDAY EVENING.

TURN Thou us by Thy grace, O good Lord, from all paths of sin, so shall we be fully turned into the safe ways of holiness, which lead to everlasting life. Be favourable, O Lord, in pardoning our former disobedience: be favourable to us in *promoting* our resolutions of amendment. We

are Thy people, O Lord, who turn to Thee with humiliation, and pray for Thy mercy and grace. We have great hope, that Thou wilt pardon and convert us, for Thou art a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great goodness. Often hast Thou spared us and withheld Thy correcting hand even when we deserved punishment, and in Thy wrath dost mercifully devise how to deliver us, as soon as we are humbled by Thy judgments. Therefore we come before Thee, beseeching Thee to spare us from all the evils which we now deserve. Let us not, who are Thy professed servants and Thine heritage, be disappointed of our hopes of pardon and deliverance. Hear us, O Lord, for Thy mercy is great; and after the multitude of Thy mercies look upon us with compassion and favour, through the merits and mediation of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all the thoughts and imaginations of all hearts are open, and their wishes and desires known, and from whom no secret, in word or deed, can be concealed; the consideration of our impurity makes us fear to

draw near unto Thee, until we have implored Thee (who alone art able to help us therein) to cleanse us of those evil thoughts which are so commonly the guests of our hearts, that they deprive us not of the comfort and benefit of Thy worship the ensuing Sabbath. Blessed Lord, prepare Thy throne in our souls by the inspiration of those pure thoughts and heavenly desires which are the fruit of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may at all times and above all things sincerely and perfectly love Thee, and not suffer any secret lust to be Thy rival in our hearts; and grant that in the sacrifices of our praises we may worthily magnify Thy holy name in giving so illustrious a salvation to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WE give Thee humble and hearty thanks, most merciful God, for bringing us in health and safety to the close of another week. Many calamities might have befallen us, but Thou hast in mercy preserved us from all. We, whose lives Thou hast spared, offer with sincere gratitude unto Thy fatherly goodness our souls and bodies, which Thou hast delivered, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee, and to be exercised

from henceforth in doing Thy holy will. From henceforth we will be Thy servants, praising and magnifying Thy mercies towards us. And we also bless Thy holy name, who makest men to be of one mind, and to live quietly together in a house; to grant that no root of bitterness may grow up among us, nor anything which may disturb the voice of joy or health in our dwelling. Give us grace that we may continue to walk in the observance of Thy holy commandments, that leading a quiet and peaceable life we may live in all godliness towards Thee, in dutiful affection towards our rulers, and in honesty towards our neighbours, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

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### A MORNING PRAYER,

WHICH MAY BE SAID FOR ANY OF THE FORMER.

O MOST gracious and eternal God, Thou art righteous in all Thy ways and holy in all Thy works, infinite in mercy and goodness to all that call upon Thee in truth, and hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wilt be in the midst of them: look



down, we beseech Thee, upon us, Thy unworthy servants, who are here before Thee to present unto Thy Divine Majesty the morning sacrifice of our unfeigned praises, acknowledging that in Thee we live, and move, and have our being, and that from Thy bountiful hand we have received all the good things we enjoy, and by Thy good providence are defended from the evils we deserve. We desire, O Lord, in an humble sense of Thy goodness towards us, to bless and praise Thy holy name ; particularly we adore Thy glorious Majesty for preserving us the night past, for raising us up in health and safety, and giving us this opportunity of calling upon Thy name. Give us grace, O Lord, to make a right use and improvement of these and all Thy other mercies, and grant that we may henceforward live as becomes the Gospel of Christ, by denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and living soberly, righteously, and godlily in this present world. Enlighten our understandings, that we may know Thee ; sanctify our affections, that we may love Thee ; and put Thy fear into our hearts, that we may dread to offend Thee. Convince us thoroughly, O Lord, of the *great evil of sin*, that we may endeavour in all

things to obey Thy blessed will, and to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Wean our affections, O Lord, from the things of this world, and whatever our state and condition may be here, give us grace, therewith to be content, to make Thee our only stay and confidence, our hope and our trust, casting all our care upon Thee, and entirely resigning ourselves to Thy good providence in all things. May our chief aim and endeavour be to secure the salvation of our souls, and to provide against that time when all earthly comforts shall vanish away. We humbly commend ourselves and all our affairs this day to Thy blessing and protection. Enable us, O Lord, to discharge the duties of our several stations, and in all things to maintain a conscience void of offence towards Thee and towards men. Be with us in our going out and coming in, that no casualty or evil accident may come near to hurt us. Give us such a measure of health and other temporal blessings as Thou seest best and most expedient for us ; but above all things give us Thy grace and favour, that our lives may be holy here, and our eternal state happy and glorious with Thee hereafter,

through the merits and for the sake of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our Lord, &c.

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AN EVENING PRAYER,

WHICH MAY BE SAID FOR ANY OF THE FORMER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, we acknowledge Thy great goodness to us in sparing us when we deserve punishment, in giving us the necessities of this life, and in setting before us the happiness of a better. We are truly sorry for the errors and sins of this day, and of our past lives ; we are grieved, that we have so often forgotten Thy presence, authority, and goodness ; and that we have not been more anxious to obtain Thy approbation and to live to Thy glory. Merciful Lord, pardon our offences, correct and amend what is amiss in us, that as we grow in years we may grow in grace, and the nearer we come to our latter end, the better we may be prepared for it. In the midst of life we are in death. Lord, grant that *this thought*, and a due sense of our frailty, may

make us careful how we live, that we may escape the bitter pains of eternal death. Take from us all ignorance, hardness of heart, and too much carefulness for the things of this life. Make us an household fearing Thee, O God, submitting ourselves to Thy good pleasure, and putting our whole trust in Thy mercy. Give us a true knowledge of ourselves, of the corruption of our nature, and the necessity of Thy gracious help to save us from ruin. And may the Spirit of Christ ever rule in us, possessing our souls with a sincere love of Thee, O God, with an earnest desire to please Thee, and with a dread of offending Thee. Sanctify us wholly, we beseech Thee, that our spirits, souls and bodies, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to us, and to all Christian churches, the means of grace and salvation, and may the saving truth of Thy gospel be published and received in all the world. Forgive all who have injured us, and forgive our many offences against our neighbour. May God, whose kingdom ruleth over all, bless our gracious king, and such as are put in authority under him, that they may govern with truth and justice, and that we, whose duty it is to

obey, may do it for conscience's sake. Finally, we beseech Thee, to defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, and give us grace that we may lead and end our lives in Thy faith and fear, and to Thy glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c. The grace of our Lord, &c.

#### A MORNING PRAYER IN PRIVATE.

O most holy, blessed, and glorious Majesty of heaven and earth, from whom all things received their being, and who art infinite in all perfections, I humbly bow myself before Thee this morning, rejoicing in the liberty which Thou vouchsafest to me, of looking up to Thee, the author of my being, before I am once more engaged in the duties and occupations of life. I adore and praise Thy eternal power, and wisdom, and goodness, and acknowledge the duty which I owe Thee as I am Thy creature, and as I am a Christian: I bewail my neglect of it, my backwardness to it, my coldness in it. I implore Thy gracious pardon *and the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, to enable me*

to perform all the vows which are upon me. Blessed be Thy fatherly goodness which hath so often prevented me with Thy grace: to this I owe whatever good thoughts and inclinations are in my heart, whatever emotions I feel towards Thee as my chiefest good; and to Thee I look for continual help to further me in well doing unto the end. O Thou who hast sent Thy Son from heaven to dwell among us; and hast not spared His life, but hast given Him up for us all, who hast raised Him from the dead, and hast given Him all power in heaven and earth that He may bless us and do us good; deny not the desires of a soul which offers itself to Thy service. Assist me from above, that I may make to Thee my constant acknowledgments for the sensible fruits of His life, death, resurrection and exaltation produced in my heart, increasing in wisdom, and righteousness, and humility. Preserve me evermore in such a frame of mind, that the sense of my weakness may make me watchful and diligent, and the remembrance of my former negligence excite me to be fervent in spirit, and the goodness of Thy commands render me more fruitful and abundant in all good works; — and the danger I

have escaped, and the blessedness before me, may excite me to persevere in well-doing; and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

May my actions this day be ordered by Thy governance, and may my zeal be regulated by prudence, and my prudence be void of all guile, and joined with perfect integrity of dealing: because Thou hatest iniquity with a perfect hatred;—that I may be numbered hereafter among Thy saints in everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ.

Dispose me, by everything that befalls me, for eternal life, and it sufficeth; I resign my concerns to the wisdom of Thy goodness; do Thou order what is best for me. To Thee I trust myself and all I have, hoping that Thou wilt preserve me from all things hurtful, and lead me to all things profitable to my salvation.

When sorrow and trouble overtake me, do Thou send me compassionate relief; and in all perplexities and difficult cases do Thou direct me what to do, and in the days of ease and prosperity fill my heart with such a sense of Thy undeserved goodness, that I may be the more ready to do good to those who are in misery; and by a sober and moderate use of Thy blessings, be prepared



to endure patiently whatever change Thou mayest order for me.

Preserve me this day in love to Thee and to all men ; and may a sense of Thee and of religion mingle itself with all my employments. And since in all my ways I will acknowledge Thee, do Thou direct my paths, and teach me to guide my words with discretion. Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation ; but conduct me by Thy counsel here, and hereafter receive me into glory, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

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#### AN EVENING PRAYER IN PRIVATE.

O God, the Father of mercies, who knowest our necessities, and wilt do what is best for Thy children ; who didst raise from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, and gavest Him the promise of the Holy Ghost, (which He hath poured forth abundantly,) to shed abroad Thy love in our hearts ; I fall down before Thee to express my fear and reverence of Thy Almighty power, my submission to Thy unsearchable wisdom, my thankful acknowledgments of Thy wonderful goodness, my trust and confi-

dence in Thy faithful promises, with my readiness and sincere purposes to perform obedience to Thy holy commands. There is nothing, O Lord, so afflicting to me as the remembrance that I have at any time offended against Thy sovereign authority. I am heartily sorry for all my sins against Thee this day in thought, word, and deed. With hearty affection I devote myself to Thy true and faithful service : do Thou accept the holy resolutions with which Thou hast inspired me withal. Strengthen me, I beseech Thee, and further me with Thy continual grace, that no sudden desires, no partial performances, may deceive and lead me into a false opinion of myself, but that I may bring forth actually, and with a constant spirit, all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of Thee, my God.

Possess me with such a deep sense of Thy supreme authority, of the obligations under which I lie to Thee, and of the great kindness Thou hast done me in engaging me to be Thy servant, that I may account Thy service the greatest pleasure of my life. Grant me perfect contentment of mind in well doing and in patient suffering, *and may the hope of being eternally beloved by*

Thee make me to rejoice evermore. Deliver me from inordinate care for the things of this life; from all distrust of Thy good providence; and enable me in every thing to give thanks, firmly believing that all things work together for good to those that love Thee.

Into Thy hands I commend this night my soul and body, which have been mercifully preserved throughout the day; and cause me to receive the light of the morning, if Thou prolongest my life, with new joy in Thee and thankful affection to Thee. I heartily desire, O Lord, the good of all mankind, and do Thou especially regard this church and nation. Deliver us from all dividing errors: may the truth as it is in Jesus prevail throughout the land, and peace be in all her borders. And send forth a better spirit among all classes, that they may exhibit more humility and contentment, and speak good of Thy name, for the singular tokens of favour and grace which we have received above all other nations: — give repentance unto sinners, and increase of grace and strength to all Thy faithful servants. — Continue good will among my neighbours; and those of them who are in sickness, do Thou support in faith and patience.

Protect and keep me in the midst of the dangers of a corrupt world, and by Thy light and grace direct me in the way to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

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A PRAYER FOR GODFATHERS AND  
GODMOTHERS.

O God, the God of truth and the Judge of all men, in whose sight I became a surety for at his Baptism, that *he* would renounce the devil and all his works, would believe in Thee and serve Thee, grant that no negligence on my part may cause *him* to lose the advantages and blessings of this Holy Sacrament. Though *he* may be unable to walk in Thy commandments, and to serve Thee without Thy special grace, yet it is in my power to teach and admonish *him*, nor can there be a more easy condition, than that the surety shall be free, if he do but often admonish him, for whom he is bound to pay the debt.

Enable me, O Lord, rightly to instruct *him* in the nature of the Baptismal vow, that *he* may not *live unworthy* of that salvation which is provided

for *him*, but may fulfil, by *his* own performance, that which *he* hath promised by my mouth. Suffer me not to rest in the vain expectation that I can shake off a duty which I took upon myself [and assign it over to *his* parents]; may I never be weary of inculcating on *him*, what Thou hast promised to *him*, what Thou has done for *him*, and on what terms *he* stands with Thee.

Justly does *he* look up to me for instruction and example :—may I bring *him* to the house of God, more fully to be instructed and advised : calling upon *him*, according to my engagement, to hear the preaching of the word of God by which *his* judgment may be convinced, *his* will persuaded, and *his* best affections moved, and taught all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health. Armed with just authority, may I never fear to reprove *him* for doing ill, or fail even to admonish *his* parents if they neglect their duty ; preferring to encounter their displeasure, than to connive at their child's ruin. Little kindness shall I have effected towards *him*, if I endeavour not to promote the real design and end of Baptism,—“to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto

Him, that as He died and rose from the dead, so should we who are baptized die to sin, and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living."

May the negligence of others in this matter be no precedent or excuse for me, neither let me be a prey to discouragement, however unpromising may be my present prospect; but having done my part, may I be content to leave the success to Thee.

Bestow Thy grace and heavenly benediction upon *him*: that oftentimes when *he* writes *his* distinctive name, oftentimes when *he* hears *himself* addressed by it, *he* may be admonished of *his* early dedication to God, and may *his* Baptismal engagements rise into view. Having been fellow helper with *his* parents in doing our part, may *he* by Thy help do *his*, nor ever blush to be called a Christian, but count himself pledged to Thee and to the world to support the honour of *his* Christian name, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED, OR THE BELIEF

PARAPHRASED.

**I believe** in one Infinite and Eternal God, a most wise and powerful, holy and pure Spirit; *the Father Almighty*; who is the *maker of heaven*; of the sun, and moon, and stars, and all the regions of glory, and of earth, and of the waters, and all that live in them; the preserver and governor of the world: — and I will own Him as my God and Almighty Father, by loving, fearing, and serving Him: and I will acknowledge Him the Creator of all by admiring His works, relying on His providence for whatever I want, and flying to Him in all danger: — to Him I will pray for food and raiment, for health and wealth, for protection and peace, firmly trusting that He will not forsake the work of His own hands: and I believe in the second person of the glorious Trinity, *Jesus Christ*, our anointed Saviour, who is very God, equal to the Father, *His only Son*: and *our Lord*, by the merciful redemption of our souls: wherefore I shall commit my salvation to my Redeemer; and since He is a Prophet, Priest, and King, I will observe His teaching, I will rely



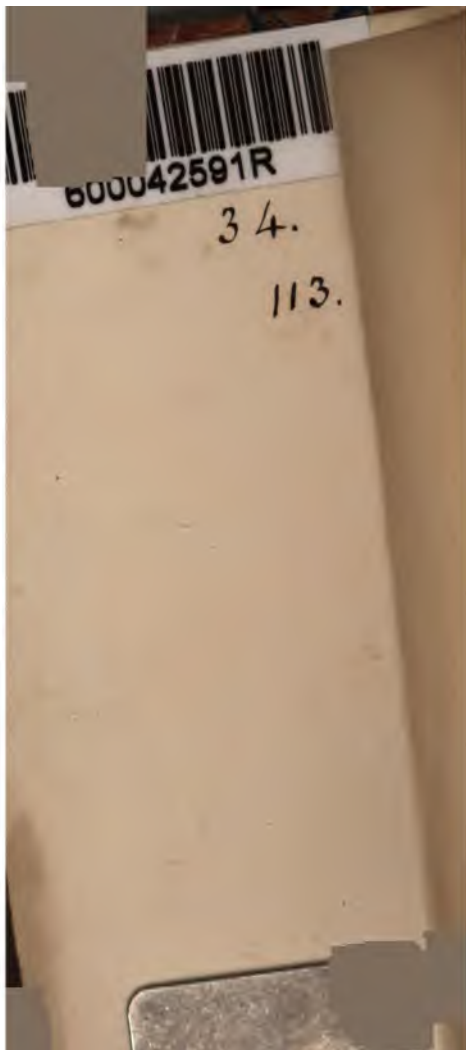
on His atonement, and submit to His authority, rejoicing that I have so divine a Saviour. And I will pray with faith in the name of Him who is so dear unto God, and who has such a right in me : and to Him will I apply for deliverance from my spiritual miseries, and for the salvation of my soul : — *who was conceived by the Holy Ghost*, free from sin, and uniting our nature to His divine nature, was *born of the Virgin Mary*, being both God and man in one person ; and from His humble birth I will learn to submit to the meanest condition, in order to do good and to keep my nature from pollution, since He thus sanctified it and united it to His divinity : and I will pray to be sustained under the necessities of this frail estate, with which He was acquainted : that I may be cleansed from the corruptions of my nature, and that being regenerate by the Holy Ghost, I may be partaker of His nature, as He was sinlessly of mine — that in order to reconcile us to God He *suffered* the wrath which we deserved : that the Jews being envious at Him, at the number of His disciples, and the reputation of His person, and the innocence of His life, and the mightiness of His miracles, and the power of His doctrine,

delivered Him to *Pontius Pilate*, the Roman governor, *under* whom He *was crucified* until He *was dead* : and afterwards He *was buried* : *He descended into hell* ;\* not to suffer torment, but to sanctify the state of death and separation, that none of His servants might afterwards fear the darkness and the shadow of death : — therefore will I lament my sins and crucify my lusts, the causes of His bitter passion ; and will forsake them all, that I lose not the benefit of His all-saving death : and I will learn from Him to suffer patiently and to die cheerfully whenever God pleases : may His death avail to the forgiveness of all my offences ! May I be supported in the hour of death, and may the remembrance of His love engage me to His service for ever ! *The third day He rose again*, by His own divine power,

\* The words 'descended into hell' appear to have been introduced to condemn a peculiar heresy, which admitted that our Lord 'took a true body,' but not 'a proper rational and intellectual soul,' the place of which, in him, was supplied by the Divinity. Of this error it was not a denial to say, that he died and was buried, but it was a distinct denial to say, that 'he descended into hell ;' that is, 'while his body went to the grave, whither the bodies of other dead men go, his soul went to the place whither the souls of other dead men go ;' for this was to maintain that he had 'a reasonable soul,' as well as 'a true body,' which these heretics denied.—See *Pearson on Creed*, and *Edin. Christ. Instructor*, v. iii., p. 113.

from the dead unto life ; therefore will I trust to His mercy and power in my lowest estate, and so rise from the death of sin that I may walk hereafter in newness of life ; and I will pray to my victorious and living Redeemer to quicken me by His grace, that I may live to His glory, and render Him a reasonable service : — I believe that *He ascended into heaven*, from whence He came ; and now *sitteth* in firm possession, and in durable continuance, and in undisturbed rest and quiet, *at the right hand of God* : and as I believe that He went from hence to heaven, so *from thence shall he come again*, at the end of the world, *to judge both the quick*, who shall then be found alive, *and the dead*, though long departed before ; therefore I will not be hasty in judging of other men's actions ; but be careful in preparing my own account, by examining and trying my own ways, and avoiding that here, which may condemn me hereafter ; and I will pray to my Judge, who is also my Saviour, that He will prepare me for that day, that I may be mercifully acquitted in it ; and have my portion among the saints. *I believe in the Holy Ghost*, the third person of the *glorious Trinity*, our sanctifier, who blesses the

means of grace for our instruction, conversion, comfort and edification. His motions I will follow, fearing to grieve Him by impurity, or the indulgence of any known sin. And I will pray for the help of this good Spirit ; for the cleansing of my heart ; for the enlightening of my mind ; for a blessing upon God's word and ordinances : that by the use of them I may grow in grace, till I am sanctified in spirit, soul and body, and thoroughly furnished unto every good work : and I believe that Christ hath purchased and the Spirit hath sanctified the *holy* society of Christians throughout the world, even the *catholic* or universal *church*, which *communion of saints*, or company of believers, Satan never could nor shall destroy, since they are one body, united unto Christ their head by faith, and unto each other by love : and I will praise God who hath made me a member of this church, and I will live in unity, peace, and charity with all my brethren, and profess the true faith preserved in it, and join in all the holy ordinances used in it, and do good to all the members thereof. And I will pray for the peace and safety, for the increase and prosperity, of true religion ; for the conversion of sinners,



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and the return of backsliders ; for the success of its ministers ; for the unity of its members, that by the concord and good works of all who belong to it, it may appear to be the body of Christ. I do also believe, that all who are in the unity of the Holy Catholic Church, do upon their hearty repentance and true faith receive *the forgiveness* and pardon *of* all their *sins* : therefore, I will never forsake Christ's holy church, to which this privilege belongs ; but I will repent of all my sins, and cheerfully serve my God without fear, neither doubting the truth of His promise, nor the sufficiency of my Redeemer's merits. And I will daily make a humble confession of my sins, and supplicate the graces of faith and true repentance : that so I may live in God's love, and die in His favour. And I believe in *the resurrection of the body*, which, by God's help, I will keep in temperance, soberness, and chastity, while I live : *and* I believe that when the world is ended, while *the* wicked remain in torments, God's servants shall behold His glory, enjoy His kingdom, in *life* and happiness *everlasting*. Therefore will I spend aright the time allotted me in *this transitory* world, and despise the short and



empty pleasures of sin, and suffer patiently the light afflictions of this present time, and esteem nothing too good to lose, too hard to resist, too tedious to perform, for the obtaining of this happiness. And I will pray to the Purchaser of this glory for faith, and patience, and perseverance, that I may be comforted in all my troubles by these hopes, and carried through my duties by the desires of these endless joys ! And this my faith I seal with a hearty *Amen*.

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## ANSWERS TO CERTAIN EXCUSES AND SCRUPLES

FREQUENTLY ADVANCED BY PERSONS, WHEN URGED  
TO ATTEND THE SACRAMENT OF THE  
LORD'S SUPPER.

1. ONE asserts, " I am afraid of attending, lest I should receive it unworthily, and thereby add to my sins. I am not good enough."

A certain sense of our own unworthiness it behoves us to encourage ; and in the Sacramental Service we confess ourselves "unworthy to offer to God any sacrifice." But if we wait until we are fully satisfied of our worthiness, it is to be feared that the command of Christ, to com-

memorate His sufferings in this sacrament, must remain neglected altogether. Natural infirmity is one thing ; allowed sin is another : the *former*, we shall have to deplore to the end of our days : but if the consciousness of the latter prevents you from becoming a partaker, you have reason to fear that your *prayers* are of no avail : for if “ we regard iniquity in our heart, God will not hear us.” In this view of the case, you are not prepared *to die* ; and if you remain in this state, your ruin is inevitable.

2. Another alleges, “ Does not St. Paul speak of those who eat and drink their own damnation ? ”

If the person who makes this excuse is not afraid of *doing* daily what Christ has *forbidden*, such an excuse is but a mere pretence. But it is possible that this scruple may rise in the mind of a well-disposed person, who is apprehensive that this may be his own case. Now, these words are certainly found in St. Paul’s Epistle to the Corinthians (1. xi. 29). But what was the nature of the sin of the Corinthians, which led the Apostle to employ such language ? Why, they turned the Lord’s supper into a disorderly meeting, in *which the rich* indulged freely, and the poor were

left unprovided. They did not “discern His body,” did not carefully distinguish a sacred ordinance commemorative of His sufferings from a common meal. This cannot be the case, according to *our* mode of administering it. With us, provision is made for doing everything decently and in order. To commit the precise offence of the Corinthians, which gave occasion to this declaration of the Apostle, is quite out of the question. But, admitting that the unworthy receiving of the Lord’s supper called down God’s displeasure, yet the word “damnation,” in this passage (1 Cor. xi. 29), cannot be interpreted to signify “eternal misery.” It is *here* employed to denote a *fatherly judgment*, a *merciful chastisement*, intended for the very purpose of enabling us to escape eternal misery, as may be clearly proved from the 32d verse, in which the Apostle, alluding to this chastisement, declares, “we are chastened of the Lord, that we *should not be* condemned with the world.” Can those who make this excuse lay their hands on their hearts, and say that they are afraid of committing sins on account of the *future* and eternal punishment which God has certainly annexed to them?

3. Others excuse themselves from attending by declaring that they see no benefit in others who *do* attend.

If this were true, it would be no excuse for *your* neglect. If others receive the grace of God in vain, there is no reason why this should be your case ; or why you should not derive all the advantages of the due performance of the rite. Something perverse must lurk in that mind, which can be *satisfied* with this reasoning. If such a mode of reasoning could be admitted, a man might justify himself in the commission of the grossest sins, because other men lived in sins as gross, and would not repent. But what saith the Scripture ? "Every man shall bear his own burden" (Gal. vi. 5). Every man's chief affair is with *his own* soul.

4. But the greater number, it is much to be feared, stay away from a mistaken notion that, by omitting to attend, they shall be left more at liberty to lead a careless, irreligious life. They imagine that they are not so strictly bound to the regular and conscientious performance of duty to God, as they would be, if they attended. But your duty is the same, whether you attend or not ; *the commandments of God* are binding upon you,

and you neglect or transgress them at your peril. There can be no excuse for the neglect of a positive duty. Commanded duty must be done : appointed means must be used : that which unfits and hinders us must be removed, and we must in sincerity give up ourselves unto God : do as well as we can, and be sorry that we can do no better : and then having “a High Priest, who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, we may come boldly to the throne of grace,” and to this table, where much of our communion with God is kept up by renewing our covenant with Him, and the interchange of solemn assurances.

But although a baptized Christian need not deliberate whether he ought to partake or not, yet the manner in which he should do it requires consideration. Cultivate secret devotion. Compose yourself for the task, and summon all that is within you to attend on it : — Address yourself to the service with fixedness of thought (vain thoughts which are disallowed, *striven against*, and repented of, though they may be your hinderance, will not be your ruin). Address yourself to this service with a sedate and quiet spirit — silencing fear by faith. With a holy awe and reverence of

the Divine Majesty. With a holy jealousy over yourself, and a humble sense of your unworthiness (but not with such suspicions as will damp your joy in God, and discourage your hope in Christ). With a gracious confidence as a child to a father. With raised expectations. In charity with all men — “Come, for all things are now ready.”

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#### A PRAYER

FOR ONE WHO HAS LIVED IN THE NEGLECT OF THE IMPORTANT  
DUTY OF PARTAKING OF THE ORDINANCE OF  
THE LORD'S SUPPER.

O MY GOD AND SAVIOUR, I own myself unworthy of the least of all Thy mercies, yet in obedience to Thy command I now purpose to appear with Thy faithful people about Thy table, which is prepared to set forth in the most lively manner the exceeding riches of Thy grace. I desire and entreat of Thee power to approach it duly affected with a sense of my own unworthiness and of Thy love.

I would come, O Lord, not trusting in my own righteousness, but as a miserable sinner, to the Saviour of the poor and needy; as one unholy, *to the never-ceasing fountain of purity*; as ignorant

and foolish, to Thee, the Sun of Righteousness and Light of the World ; as destitute, to be supplied out of Thy unsearchable riches, who art the Lord of the Universe and the Head over all things to the Church. Thou, Lord, wast pleased to forgive the woman that was a sinner, to declare the contrite publican justified, to save the dying thief, and to receive again the backsliding Peter. O show the like mercy unto me, a miserable sinner ; make this ordinance effectual to open my understanding, to know the nature and the efficacy of Thy death upon the cross. May I here see and know that my hope of salvation depends not on anything uncertain or insufficient ; but upon Thy full, perfect sacrifice, accepted of the Father, as a complete propitiation for the sins of all who believe in Thy name. O let it not be to me an empty memorial, a mere ceremony ; but while I receive the outward and visible sign, let my soul enjoy the inward and spiritual grace thereby signified ; whilst my hand receives the bread and wine, let me by a true and living faith eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood ; let me glory in the cross of Christ, and see that my life proceeds out of His death, and my salva-



tion from His being made a curse for me on the tree.

O Lord my God, let Thy power be present to heal my soul; and let virtue come forth from Thee to arm me with the same mind which was manifested in Thy life and conversation when upon earth, so shall I offer unto Thee, with great gladness, my thanks, and praise Thee among much people as God the Lord, by whom alone we sinners escape death. So shall I praise Thee, not only during my life upon earth, but glorify Thee for ever among the general assembly and church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven. *Amen.*

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A MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER,

FOR THE USE OF A LITTLE CHILD.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made, but takest care of the beasts of the earth, and of the fowls of the air, bless me, Thy child, whom Thou hast made in Thy image, and adopted for Thy own by Thy grace in Christ. Preserve me this (day) from all evil, both in body and soul. Give me what Thou seest good for me; especially a heart to know Thee

early, to be thankful to Thee, to love Thee, and to do Thy will as well as I am able. Bless my father and my mother, and all my friends, and make me a follower of those who are good : for the sake of my Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

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## A MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER,

## FOR THE USE OF A YOUNG PERSON.

O LORD, who art a gracious Saviour and merciful Redeemer, who didst command that little children should come unto Thee, and didst take them up in Thine arms, lay Thy hands upon them and bless them ; look graciously upon me, I humbly beseech Thee, and bless me who am one of Thy children dedicated to Thy service. Pity the weakness of my tender age, and help me betimes with Thy grace. Make me seriously to remember my Creator in the days of my youth. Endue me with the fear of my God, and make me always mindful of the vow and promises that were made in my name when I was baptized ; — to forsake the devil and all his works, to believe in God and to serve Him. Make me dutiful to my parents,

kind to my brothers and sisters, obedient to my instructors, thankful for the good advice of my friends, humble and reverent to my betters, and meek and gentle to all : that as I grow in years I may grow in wisdom and favour with Thee, and with those who are good. Preserve me from all dangers this (night) ; let Thy good angels be my keepers and defenders ; and guide me by Thy holy Spirit, that the longer I live, the better I may be, to the comfort of my parents, to my own happiness, and to the honour and glory of my God, here and for ever. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

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## THE SERVANT'S PRAYER.

O LORD, most high, who art the maker of the rich and of the poor, with whom there is no respect of persons, look graciously upon me, I humbly beseech Thee, who have cast myself down before Thee ; acknowledging Thy sovereign power over all, and Thy wise providence which hath disposed all things into several ranks and degrees, for the mutual help and benefit of mankind. I humbly *submit to the state and condition wherein Thou*

hast been pleased to place me. I thank Thee for life, for health, for strength of body ; and that I have so much liberty as to make my requests unto Thee, and to acknowledge Thy mercies, and that I have any hope that Thou wilt never cease to do me good until Thou hast crowned all Thy mercies in eternal life. Good Lord, pardon me, if I have at any time murmured and repined at my condition, or envied the high estate of other persons. Pardon all my other offences, whatever they have been, and vouchsafe but to deliver me from the bondage of sin, and to make me a servant of righteousness ; and I shall not only be contented, but for ever rejoice in Thy salvation. Endue me with a right understanding of my duty in that relation wherein I stand, that, according to Thy command, I may account those whom I serve “worthy of all honour,” being careful to please Thee in all things, “not answering again, not purloining, but showing all good fidelity,” and all good will, and singleness of heart, doing service as to the Lord, and not to men. Help me to demean myself so humbly, and whatever I do, to do it so heartily, that I may obtain favour in Thine eyes. Or, if they be froward and hard to please, preserve

me from all unruly passions and disrespectful behaviour towards them ; and make me so much the more diligent in their business, remembering that I serve the Lord Christ, from whom I expect to “ receive the reward of the inheritance.”

If Thou art pleased to afflict me with sickness, which may hinder my labour and cast me into poverty, Lord, still strengthen my faith and confidence in Thee. Help me to bear it with a patient mind, looking unto Jesus, who took upon Him the form of a servant, and became poor, and suffered much for my sake, but is now enabled to succour and comfort those who follow Him contentedly in well doing. In His name and words I recommend myself unto Thy mercy, saying, Our Father, &c.

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#### THE AGED MAN'S, OR AGED WOMAN'S PRAYER.

I ADORE THEE, O Lord of life and glory, who art from everlasting to everlasting, and changest not ; beseeching Thee to look graciously upon Thy unworthy servant, whose hope is only in Thine infinite mercy, by which my life hath been *prolonged* to old age, and which is able to make

me eternally blessed. I thank Thee for Thy wonderful love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, who can give me a solid and steadfast ground of hope to support and strengthen my heart when all the comforts of this life fail me ; and likewise praise and magnify Thy name for those innumerable blessings which, from time to time, Thou hast bestowed upon me from the beginning of my life to this hour.

O my God, help me always to comfort myself, in these my declining days, with the remembrance of Thy past loving-kindnesses to me, and of those hopes which I have of Thy endless love in another world : and the more my outward senses decay, vouchsafe me the quicker and more lively sense in my heart of those good things which Thou hast laid up there, for those who fear Thee. Preserve me from all discontented thoughts and peevish passions. Make me an example unto others of holiness, discretion, temperance, gravity, peaceableness, and patience, that so I may with the more authority be a “ teacher of good things ; ” and my “ hoary head may be a crown of glory, being found in the way of righteousness.” Pardon me, good Lord, that I have made no better

improvement of my time and talents ; pardon my negligences and all my offences : and fill my heart with a comfortable sense of Thy pardoning mercy in Christ Jesus ; that having no other burden but that of age to oppress my spirit, I may rejoice in Thee as long as I live, and at last lay myself down in peace, and resign my soul into Thy hands in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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A FATHER'S PRAYER FOR HIS CHILDREN.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast promised children as a reward to the righteous, and hast given them to me as a testimony of Thy mercy, and an engagement to my duty, be pleased to be a Father unto them, and give them healthful bodies, understanding minds, and sanctified spirits, that they may be Thy servants and children all their days. Let Thy good providence lead them through the dangers, and temptations, and ignorances of youth, that they may not run into folly, nor the evils of an unbridled appetite. Do Thou *so order the events of their lives, that by good*



education, careful tutors, holy example, innocent company, prudent counsel, and Thy restraining grace, their duty to Thee may be secured in the midst of a crooked and untoward generation : and if it seem good in Thine eyes, let me be enabled to provide conveniently for the support of their persons, that they be not destitute and miserable on my death ; or, if Thou shalt call me from this world by an early summons, let their portion be Thy care ; extend Thy mercy and providence over their bodies and souls ; and may they not lead vicious lives nor die untimely deaths ; but let them glorify Thee here by the free-will offering of obedient hearts ; that when they have served Thee in their generation, they may be inheritors of Thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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## A MOTHER'S PRAYER FOR HER CHILDREN.

Most gracious and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of men and angels, Father of mercies and God of all comfort ; Thou hast promised to be a Father, to a thousand generations of them that love and fear Thee, be Thou

a God and Father to me and to the children whom Thou hast given me. Enable me, O Lord, to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" and in Thy faith and fear to the praise of Thy holy name. O give me Thy grace and favour, that I may instruct them with diligence and meekness, and may further the designs of others in educating them in the principles of an unchanging creed. Enable me to govern them with prudence and holiness, to lead them in the paths of religion and justice ; not provoking them to wrath ; not indulging them in their follies ; not conniving at any unworthy action ; and that all my children may be Thine, O preserve them in Thy favour, or remove them from hence while they are so. If it please Thee, let them live to a full age, but secure them a full measure of piety and holiness. To this end give them grace to obey their parents, that doing the duty, they may receive the promise : preserve them from sin and shame, from youthful follies and from youthful crimes. Sanctify them in their bodies, souls, and spirits, that their thoughts may be pure and holy, and their words be prudent and true, and their *actions useful* and holy ; — that pleasing Thee and

doing good to others, they may increase in the love of God, and in favour with good men, and have the portion of the meek and humble in this world, and of the pure and merciful in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK.

## 1. A PRAYER FOR SUPPORT UNDER AFFLICTION.

O LORD, who in the midst of all Thy glories dost not forget Thy afflicted servants in their distress, look down from heaven upon us all, and especially vouchsafe to behold favourably, to visit graciously, and to relieve speedily, this Thy servant who stands in such great need of Thy pity and Thy help. His misery is apt to make him fear that Thou art displeased at him, wherefore look upon him and regard him with the eyes of Thy mercy, which are always over them that fear Thee: persuade him that Thou intendest good things towards him; give him comfort, O Thou God of all consolation, and sure confidence in Thee, for now all other comforts appear to forsake him. Defend him from the assaults and from the

danger of his spiritual enemy, that he may not be overcome by any of his temptations. Let Thy Divine comforts inwardly refresh him, and keep him in perpetual peace, and Thy mighty protection preserve him in continual security and safety. Grant these mercies to him, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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## 2. A PRAYER FOR SANCTIFYING THE AFFLICTION.

HEAR us, we beseech Thee, O Almighty God, and help us, we pray Thee, most gracious and merciful God, who hast always been the deliverer and Saviour of those that fly to Thee in their distress; Thy nature is full of compassion, and all Thy dispensations show that Thou art ready to relieve the miserable; extend Thy accustomed goodness, by which so many formerly have been refreshed, to this Thy servant, among the rest, who is a proper object for Thy mercy, being at this time sorely grieved with sickness and with pain; when we behold him in this extremity, our compassion excites us to entreat Thee to ease him, if it be Thy will. But whatever else Thou withholdest from him, grant him Thy heavenly grace, and

sanctify, we beseech Thee, this severe affliction which is Thy fatherly correction, that it may amend whatever hath been amiss, and prove beneficial to him. Let him so wisely and piously consider his present condition, that the sense of his weakness, and the possibility of his approaching dissolution may add strength to his faith, and cause him to cleave the more closely to Thee, now that all other comforts fail: let the sense of the uncertainty of his stay upon earth add sincerity and seriousness to his repentance. Give him grace to believe firmly and repent unfeignedly, that if it shall be Thy good pleasure to comply with our earnest desires, and restore him to his former health, he may upon his recovery lead the rest of his life, which Thou hast so graciously bestowed upon him, in Thy fear and to Thy glory: or, if Thou hast resolved to remove him from hence, do Thou give him grace to submit to Thy will, and enable him so humbly and quietly to take this chastisement as Thy visitation, that after this painful life ended, he may dwell with Thee in a life free from all evils, and full of everlasting happiness, through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 3. A PRAYER FOR PARDON AND SANCTIFICATION.

O LORD, who art in Thy own nature a most merciful God, and who, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, far surpassing the number of our sins, dost so freely and fully put away and pardon the sins of those who truly repent, that Thou rememberest them no more, but art reconciled to them entirely again: open Thine eye of mercy, and with much pity look upon this Thy servant, who, confessing and bewailing his offences, most earnestly desires pardon and forgiveness at Thy hand. And because iniquity often leaves evil dispositions behind it, renew in him by Thy Holy Spirit, most loving Father, whatever grace or virtuous habit hath been decayed, lost, or any ways impaired by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by his own carnal will and frailness enticing him to consent thereto. Preserve and continue, therefore, O Lord, this sick member of Jesus Christ, in the unity and communion of Thy church, that he may partake of the privileges enjoyed by Thy saints, and in Thy due time be enabled to praise Thee in Thy house with them. O consider his contrition, and *accept his sorrows*, and be merciful to his soul:—

and do Thou also assuage his pain, and abate his sickness ; although we refer this temporal mercy to Thy wisdom to order it as shall seem to Thee most expedient for him, and best conducive to his eternal good. And for as much as he putteth his full trust only in Thy mercy, do Thou, O Lord, forgive him, and impute not unto him his former sins : but strengthen him with Thy blessed Spirit, that he may cheerfully undergo whatever outward correction Thou layest on him : and when Thou who sentest him into this world art pleased to take him hence, we will not murmur at Thy appointment, but only beg that Thou wilt take him unto Thyself, and let him die in Thy favour, that he may live with Thee in everlasting happiness ; through the merits and intercession of Thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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#### 4. A PRAYER FOR A SICK CHILD.

O LORD, who art an Almighty God, and therefore *able*, a merciful Father, and therefore *likely*, to help us in this distress, of whom should we beg a longer life for this child, but of Thee, to whom belong the issues and event of every sickness, be-



cause Thou only hast the supreme power of life and death. Whatever be our pity, our ability is none at all; Thou gavest this infant its life at first, and Thou only canst preserve it now; — look down from heaven, Thy throne of grace, we humbly beseech Thee, with the eyes of Thy mercy with which Thou art wont to regard Thy distressed creatures, and have compassion on this child now lying upon the bed of sickness, and feeling greater misery than he is able to express. Our visit only expresseth charity, but Thine will bring relief: visit him, therefore, O Lord, in mercy, and help him with Thy salvation. If Thou hast appointed him to live, deliver him from his bodily pain, and restore him in Thy good appointed time to perfect health; and if it please Thee to remove him, do Thou save his soul, for Thy mercy's sake: though we desire his life, yet we submit to Thy will; — that if our prayers prevail for his recovery, and it shall be Thy pleasure to show him mercy and prolong his days here on earth to the great comfort of his distressed relatives, he may live in all obedience to Thee his deliverer: and when he grows up, may prove to *be an instrument of Thy glory; by serving Thee*

faithfully with piety and devotion, and doing good in his generation. Or else, if Thou hast resolved by this sickness to remove him from this house of clay, receive him into those heavenly habitations which our Saviour went to prepare for us, where the souls of those that sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest and happiness. Grant this, O Lord, for Thy mercies' sake, in the name of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

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5. A PRAYER FOR A SICK PERSON, WHEN THERE IS  
SMALL HOPE OF RECOVERY.

O LORD, the refuge and relief of all the distressed and disconsolate, we acknowledge Thee to be the Father of mercies and God of all comforts, the fountain of pity, and the author of all that supports us, in whose power and goodness we have our only help in time of need, when all earthly means do fail; we flee unto Thee for succour and deliverance on behalf of this Thy servant [not long ago in health as we are], now lying under *Thy hand*, and likely to sink under it, in great

weakness of body. Let Thy tender mercy move Thee to look graciously upon him, for the sense of Thy favour, O Lord, will wonderfully refresh him: as his natural powers grow weaker, so let *Thy* strength come to his aid, andt he more the outward man decayeth, strengthen him, we beseech Thee, so much the more continually, by replenishing him with Thy grace and holy Spirit, to sanctify and renew him in the inner man: that with a mind full of well-grounded peace and satisfaction, he may the more easily endure his bodily pain. Give, and work in, him a true and unfeigned repentance for all the errors of his judgment and all the iniquities of his practice through the whole course of his past life, which, though they have been many, are not more than his Redeemer's merits: wherefore do Thou grant him also a lively and steadfast faith in Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who hath died for him: that his sins may be done away by Thy mercy, and his pardon sealed in heaven, never to be reversed, before he go hence, and be no more seen by mortal men. We know, O Lord, by Scripture and by experience, that there is no word which Thou speakest, nor any act which *Thou undertakest*, which is impossible with Thee

who art omnipotent ; and that if Thou wilt, Thou canst even yet raise him up, and grant him a longer continuance among us ; yet forasmuch as in all appearance to human reason, the time of his dissolution draweth near ; so fit and prepare him, we beseech Thee, by Thy pardoning and assisting grace, against the hour of death, that after his departure hence in peace, and with a quiet conscience and in Thy favour through the reconciliation by Christ, his soul may be welcomed and received into Thine everlasting kingdom, which has no mixture in its joys, as this life had : which as it was purchased through the merits, so let it be bestowed on this Thy servant by the intercession and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

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6. A COMMENDATORY PRAYER FOR A SICK PERSON AT  
THE POINT OF DEPARTURE.

O ALMIGHTY God, by whose infinite power death is made a passage to a better life : Thou art the glorious King of heaven with whom the souls of Thy servants that depart hence do live for ever : Thy kingdom is that happy mansion

where the spirits of just men made perfect and freed from sin and all human infirmities, do securely dwell, after they are delivered from their earthly prisons, even their bodies of flesh. In confidence of Thy care over those who depart in Thy fear, we humbly commend the soul of this Thy servant, our dear brother, into the hands of Thee who gavest it, as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most merciful Saviour, with whom it will be safe and happy; we accompany it with our last and best wishes and prayers, most humbly beseeching Thee that it may be esteemed dear and precious in Thy sight. Wash it, we pray Thee, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, which, having no blemish in Him, nor sin of His own upon Him, was slain to take away the sins of the world. O Lord, do Thou so free it hereby from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of iniquity, that whatsoever defilements it may have contracted in this world of sin and sorrow, through the lusts of the flesh from within, or the wiles of Satan from without, being purged and done away, it may be presented pure and without spot before Thee. And do Thou instruct and teach us, who *by Thy mercy* are spared awhile, and permitted to *survive him*, in this and other like daily examples



and moving spectacles of mortality, which Thou presentest to us, to see as in a glass how frail is our nature, how changeable and uncertain is our condition in this mortal state. Teach us so to compute and so to number those many of our days which are already past, and the fewness of those which may remain behind, that we may seriously apply our hearts to the holy and heavenly wisdom of making our peace with Thee, and living in Thy fear, — the only path which may in the end bring us to life everlasting; through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord.  
*Amen.*

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## MEDITATIONS

## ON THE USE AND BENEFIT OF SICKNESS.

COME and let us praise the Divine goodness, which appoints everything for the best; — our life and death are equally His care! The Lord casts us down upon the bed of sickness, and draws the curtains between the world and us: — shutting out all its vain desires, and contracting our business to the walls of our chamber. In that quiet solitude He speaks to our hearts, and sets our

whole life before us : there He discovers the treachery of this world, and by the prospects of its vanity invites us to a better. Oh ! how different are the thoughts of sickness to those of careless health ! How do we censure what we once esteemed, how easily are we now converted unto wiser counsels ! When our unruly senses are rebuked by pains, and His fear teaches the rashness of our minds sobriety ! When the occasions of sin are removed away, and everything about us exhorts us to repentance ! Blessed be Thy name, O Lord, whose mercy sanctifies even Thy punishments into favours ; — Thou tellest by experience that all must die, but in kindness hidest in cloud and darkness the time and place, that everywhere we may stand upon our guard, and all our days may expect Thy coming. O Thou most Just but Secret Providence, who governest all things after the counsel of Thy will, whose powerful hand can lead down to the grave and bring back again ; behold, to Thee I bow the head, and freely submit my dearest concerns. Strike, as Thou pleasest, my health and life : I cannot be safer than when at Thy disposal ; only these few requests I humbly *ask, and O may Thy clemency vouchsafe them to*



me : — Cut me not off in the midst of folly, suffer me not to expire with my sins unpardoned ! But make me, Lord, first ready for Thyself, and then take me to Thee in Thine own good time ! Give me eternal rest, O merciful Lord, and may Thy glorious light shine upon me for ever !

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ON RETURNING FROM THE FUNERAL OF A  
CHRISTIAN FRIEND.

SINCE we have shed our solemn tears, and paid due sighs to the memory of our friend, let us dry up our sorrows with the comfort of hope, and change our grief into the language of charity. He for whom we mourn is delivered from the burden of the flesh, and all the miseries we justly deplore : he is free from the bed of sickness, and no longer needs the refreshment of sleep : his weary body inherits the peace of the grave ; while his soul is enlarged from all temptation and danger of falling : happy in the free and certain hope of beholding its Redeemer. O glorious God, the free original source and final end of universal nature, since by Thy grace in Christ, Thou hast happily

begun and sowed in our hearts the seeds of eternal life, may the same blest hand go on to finish its own work, and hasten the days of its harvest !

So shall Thy saints, O Lord, sing with joyfulness to Thy sacred name, evermore praising Thee and saying, He is our God, even the God of whom cometh salvation ; God is the Lord, by whom we escape death. Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever ! *Amen.*

---

## A PRAYER

TO BE USED BY AN AFFLICTED WIFE IN BEHALF OF A  
VICIOUS HUSBAND.

O ETERNAL FATHER, Thou preserver of men, Thou great lover of souls, who didst send Thy holy Son to die, that mankind might be redeemed and sin might be destroyed : Thou knowest how intolerable a thing it is that a soul should, to eternal ages, be encircled with Thy wrath and the indignation of a mighty and angry God, and therefore dost love to do miracles of mercy, because Thou willest not that a sinner should perish : be *pleased to give Thy handmaid leave to present*

her humble desires in behalf of a sinner — one sinner for another — the miserable for him that is ready to perish. Lord, look down in mercy upon my husband, snatch him from the jaws of hell, suffer him not to perish in his sin: but open his eyes with the light of Thy word and Thy Spirit, that he may espy his danger, that he may behold the deformity of his sins.

Cleanse his hand and heart from all unrighteousness, O God, and his soul and body from all impurity. Give him a perfect repentance and a perfect pardon: and, if it be Thy will, let me also be a fellow helper towards the recovery of his soul; and be pleased to remember the sufferings of Thy handmaid, not that he may receive evil, but that I may find good from Thy gracious hands in the day of recompense; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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#### A PRAYER

FOR HOLY INTENTION IN THE BEGINNING AND  
PURSUIT OF ANY CONSIDERABLE ACTION.

O ETERNAL God, who hast made so many things for man, and man for Thy glory, sanc-

tify my body and soul, my thoughts and intentions, my words and actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, I may design to glorify Thy name, and by Thy blessing it may be effective and successful in the work of God. Let no pride nor self-seeking, no covetousness nor revenge, no impure mixture nor unworthy purposes, no little ends nor low imaginations, pollute my spirit and unhallow my words and actions; but let my body be a servant of my spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Christ; that doing all things for Thy glory here, I may be partaker of Thy glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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## A PRAYER

FOR A SINNER RETURNING AFTER A LONG IMPIETY  
AND FORGETFULNESS OF GOD.

O ETERNAL JUDGE of men and angels, Father of mercies, and great lover of souls, I humbly acknowledge that the state of my soul is sad and deplorable, and by my own grievous fault I am in an evil condition: and if Thou shouldst now enter into judgment with me, I have nothing of

my own to abate the stroke of Thy severe infliction. But, O my God, though I deserve evil, yet Thou art gracious and holy, and lovest more to behold Thy glory reflected from the floods and springs of mercy, than from the troubled waters of Thy severe displeasure : and because Thou lovest so highly to show mercy, let me hope that Thou hast mercy in store for him to whom Thou hast given grace to ask it. O my God, pity me even for Thy goodness' sake, and because I am miserable and need it. And since I have nothing of my own to be a ground of confidence, cause me to place my hopes on Thee, through Jesus Christ. I come to the throne of Thy grace to find mercy, and for that Holy Spirit which Thou hast promised to those that ask it. O God, give me pardon, and give me Thy Spirit ; then shall I be safe and healed, and all that I desire to be, all that I ought to be. I have spent my time in vanity, enable me to redeem that time : my understanding hath been abused by vain confidences, let that faculty now be brought to the obedience of Christ. My will hath been peevish and perverse ; let it now be subdued to Thine. My heart was a fountain of evil thoughts ; now, O

God, do Thou sanctify it, and make it Thine for ever. O refuse not Thy returning son ; I have the sorrow of a humble penitent ; the hope of one that feels Thy present goodness, and longs for more. Reject me not, O my God, but do Thou work within me a true repentance, a humble fear, a religious hope, a growing charity. Then shall I be what Thou wouldest have me to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE END.

ERRATUM.

P. 62, *after a surety for, insert a —.*

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